96-140

MISSOURI, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION, AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SIXTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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S. 1685

A BILL TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN LANDS IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI AS WILDERNESS

S. 1769

A BILL TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN LANDS IN THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST, SOUTH DAKOTA, AS THE BLACK ELK WILDERNESS

S. 2583

A BILL TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MAY 29, 1980

Publication No. 96-140

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MISSOURI, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1980

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS,
RECREATION, AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES,
OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:10 p.m., in room 3110, Dirksen Office Building, Hon. Dale Bumpers, presiding.

Present: Senators Bumpers, Domenici, and Schmitt.

Also present: Thomas B. Williams, professional staff member; and Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DALE BUMPERS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AS PRESENTED BY SENATOR DOMENICI

Senator DOMENICI. The subcommittee will come to order.

Senator Bumpers indicated that he will be here shortly, but authorized us to go ahead and proceed so as to finish by a reasonable time. He asked me to read an opening statement and take care of a little bit of business that does not pertain to the issue.

The primary purpose of the hearing this afternoon is to receive testimony on S. 2583—a bill to designate certain national forest lands in the State of New Mexico as wilderness.

I have also asked that the Forest Service provide testimony for the record concerning two additional RARE II measures currently pending before the subcommittee—S. 1685 and S. 1769.

These bills would designate wilderness in Missouri and South Dakota respectively. At this point, I would ask that the bills, reports and statements from Senators McGovern, Eagleton, and Danforth in support of these measures be included in the record.

[The texts of the bills, reports, and statements of Senators McGovern, Eagleton, and Danforth follow:]

96TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1685

To designate certain lands in the State of Missouri as wilderness.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3 (legislative day, JUNE 21), 1979

Mr. EAGLETON (for himself and Mr. DANFORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the State of Missouri as wilderness.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in furtherance of the purpose of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890), the following lands as generally depicted on maps appropriately referenced, dated July 1979, are hereby designated as wilderness and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) certain lands in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, which comprise about eight thousand

five hundred and thirty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Bell Mountain Wilderness, Proposed," dated July 1979, and shall be known as the "Bell Mountain Wilderness";

(2) certain lands in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, which comprise about four thousand one hundred and twenty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Rockpile Mountain Wilderness, Proposed," dated July 1979, and shall be known as the "Rockpile Mountain Wilderness";

(3) certain lands in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, which comprise about eight thousand four hundred and thirteen acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Piney Creek Wilderness, Proposed," dated July 1979, and shall be known as the "Piney Creek Wilderness";

(4) certain lands in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, which comprise about six thousand seven hundred and fifty-eight acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Devils Backbone Wilderness, Proposed," dated July 1979, and shall be known as the "Devil's Backbone Wilderness".

SEC. 2. As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area with the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the United States House of Representatives, and each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such legal description and map may be made and such maps shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 3. Wilderness areas designated by this Act shall be administered in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

July 17 1980

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you requested, here is our report on S. 1685, a bill "To designate certain lands in the State of Missouri as wilderness."

The Department of Agriculture recommends that the bill be enacted with amendments to reference updated maps and acreages, and to clarify that the provisions of the Act of October 19, 1976, as it applies to the study of three of the areas, have been fulfilled.

S. 1685 would designate as wilderness 4 areas on the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, totaling approximately 27,821 acres. These areas would become components of the National Wilderness Preservation System and be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

The four areas are among ten roadless and undeveloped areas on National Forest System lands in Missouri that were included in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). Three of the areas are congressionally-designated study areas that were evaluated as part of RARE II. As a result of this review, the President recommended wilderness designation for the four areas included in S. 1685.

The four areas located in the heart of the scenic Ozarks of southern Missouri would be invaluable additions to the Nation's wilderness system. The proposed Bell Mountain Wilderness and Rockpile Mountain Wilderness, both congressionally-mandated Wilderness Study areas, are part of the St. Frances Mountains. They represent a visual kaleidoscope with broad green glades, steep gorges with pure spring-fed streams, long talus slopes, and numerous rock formations. Evidence of the areas' cultural history abound as does a variety of wildlife.

The acreage of the Administration's wilderness proposals vary slightly from those contained in S. 1685. The Administration recommended a 7,300-acre Bell Mountain Wilderness which excludes 300 acres of private lands and approximately 1,000 acres because of outstanding mineral rights and a powerline.

We recommend the reference to map and acreage on line 9, page 1 to line 4, page 2 be changed to "which comprise about 7,300 acres and generally depicted on a map entitled 'Bell Mountain Wilderness' dated January 1979 and shall be known as the 'Bell Mountain Wilderness'". S. 1685 refers to a 8,530-acre area.

The Administration recommended a 3,920-acre Rockpile Mountain Wilderness which excludes 80 acres of private land and three small areas totaling 50 acres. These areas were excluded because of nonconforming uses. We recommend the reference to map and acreage on lines 5 to 10, page 2, be changed to "which comprise about 3,920 acres and generally depicted on a map entitled 'Rockpile Mountain Wilderness' dated January 1979 and shall be known as the 'Rockpile Mountain Wilderness'". S. 1685 refers to a 4,120-acre area.

The Administration's proposals for Piney Creek Wilderness and Devil's Backbone Wilderness are identical to the areas proposed in S. 1685. The proposed 6,800-acre Devil's Backbone Wilderness is an area of heavy forest cover, limestone glades, and wild azaleas. Secondary attractions are the many springs which feed the beautiful North Fork River. Wildlife is abundant and diverse, including whitetail deer, wild turkey, both blue and green heron, and numerous songbirds. The proposed 8,400-acre Piney Creek Wilderness is also a congressionally-mandated Wilderness Study Area. The proposed wilderness includes the entire Piney Creek watershed with its narrow ridge tops and deep canyons. The variety of vegetation and wildlife in Piney Creek is exaggerated due to the convergence of many ecosystems, many of which contain species at the limit of their natural ranges such as the roadrunner and bald eagle.

We recommend an amendment which releases the three congressionally-mandated Wilderness Study Areas from the provisions of section 3(d) of the Act of October 19, 1976 (90 Stat. 2636) directing that these areas be studied for wilderness suitability. We suggest the following amendment be added as section 4:

> "The wilderness study designations of the Bell Mountain Wilderness Study Area, the Piney Creek Wilderness Study Area, and the Rockpile Mountain Wilderness Study Area, as provided by the Act of October 19, 1976 (90 Stat. 2636), are hereby revoked, and the requirements of section 3 of said act are hereby declared fulfilled with respect to these areas."

No increase in appropriations will be required by enactment of S. 1685.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report and that the enactment of S. 1685 as amended would be in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely,

Bob Bergland

Bob Bergland
Secretary

96TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1769

To designate certain lands in the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota, as the Black Elk Wilderness.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18 (legislative day, JUNE 21), 1979

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. PRESSLER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota, as the Black Elk Wilderness.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in furtherance of the purpose of the Wilderness Act, certain lands in the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota, comprising about ten thousand seven hundred acres as depicted on a map entitled "Black Elk Wilderness", dated June 1979, are hereby designated as the Black Elk Wilderness.

SEC. 2 As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map of the wilderness and a legal description of its boundaries with the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in the Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and map may be made.

SEC. 3. The wilderness designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with (1) the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall, with regard to the wilderness designated by this Act, be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act, (2) the provisions of the Act of June 5, 1920 (41 Stat. 986), and (3) the provisions of the Act of October 6, 1949 (63 Stat. 708, 709).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

July 17 1980

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you requested here is our report on S. 1769, a bill "To designate certain lands in the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota, as the Black Elk Wilderness." Our report is also applicable to section 1(a)(20) of the House Act H.R. 5487.

The Department of Agriculture recommends that the bill be enacted with an amendment clarifying the reference in section 3, which refers to the Act of June 5, 1920, and the Act of October 6, 1949, making clear that management will be in accordance with the Wilderness Act.

S. 1769 would designate as wilderness 10,700 acres in the Black Hills National Forest. The Black Elk Wilderness would become a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System and be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act and the act establishing the Custer State Park Sanctuary and later named the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve.

The Black Elk area is one of five roadless areas on National Forest System lands in South Dakota that was included in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). As a result of this review, the President recommended wilderness designation for the area under the name Harney Peak, a prominent feature in the area. We understand there is considerable public interest in designating the area as the Black Elk Wilderness. We would have no objection to this name change.

The area is adjacent to Mount Rushmore National Memorial and includes some of the highest elevation country east of the Rocky Mountains. The area provides some primary habitat for Rocky Mountain goats and range for elk. It provides an outstanding representation of Black Hills pine forest ecosystem.

The proposed Black Elk Wilderness is located within the 27,766-acre Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. On June 5, 1920, Congress passed a law authorizing the establishment of a game sanctuary on National Forest land adjacent to Custer State Park. The area was initially designated as the Custer State Park Game Sanctuary. Various boundary adjustments were made through the years, and in 1949 the sanctuary's name was changed to the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. The intent of the act establishing the preserve was for the protection of game animals, birds, and as a game breeding area.

Management activities permitted under the preserve designation include manipulation of vegetation to enhance wildlife habitat, fire protection, timber harvest, grazing, and campground development. Timber harvest, campground development, and habitat manipulation are not consistent with the proposed wilderness designation.

While we have no objection to the continuation of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve status for the 10,700-acre wilderness proposal, we recommend the proposed wilderness be managed based on the provisions of the Wilderness Act. In the event a conflict in management of the area between the wilderness and preserve designations, the wilderness designation would take precedence. This will permit continued protection of wildlife resources in keeping with the objectives of the Wildlife Preserve, yet provide management that insures protection of the wilderness resource. To clarify this direction, we recommend amending the part of section 3 which states that the provisions of the Act of June 5, 1920, and the Act of October 6, 1949, shall also apply to the wilderness.

We suggest substituting the following language used in the House Act H.R. 5487, after the word "act" on line 18, page 2: "Provided, That the provisions of the act establishing the Custer State Park Sanctuary (41 Stat. 986) and the later named Norbeck Wildlife Preserve (63 Stat. 708) shall also apply to the Black Elk Wilderness to the extent they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Wilderness Act". This approach would not remove the Preserve status for the 10,700-acre wilderness proposal but would clarify the management direction for the Black Elk Wilderness.

No increase in appropriation would be required by enactment of S. 1769.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report and that enactment of S. 1769 would be in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely,

Bob Bergland
Secretary

96TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2583

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of New Mexico for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 1980

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT) (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of New Mexico for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, **That this Act may be cited as the "New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980".**

FINDINGS AND POLICY

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) many areas of undeveloped public lands in New Mexico possess outstanding natural characteristics giving them high values as wilderness and will, if properly preserved, contribute as an enduring resource for the benefit of the American people;

(2) review and evaluation of roadless and undeveloped lands in the National Forest System in New Mexico has identified those areas which, on the basis of their landform, ecosystem, associated wildlife, and location will help to fulfill the National Forest System's share of the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) review and evaluation of roadless and undeveloped lands in the National Forest System in New Mexico has also identified those areas which should be available for multiple uses other than wilderness.

(b) The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) insure that certain National Forest System lands in New Mexico be promptly available for nonwilderness uses including, but not limited to, campground and other recreation site development, timber harvesting, intensive range management, mineral development, and watershed and vegetation manipulation; and

(2) designate certain other National Forest System lands in New Mexico for inclusion in the Na-

tional Wilderness Preservation System in order to promote, perpetuate, and preserve the wilderness character of the land to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and to promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all the American people.

Sec. 3. (a) In furtherance of the purpose of the Wilderness Act and in accord with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the following lands in the State of New Mexico comprising approximately five hundred and sixty thousand four hundred acres and as generally depicted on maps appropriately referenced, dated April 1980, are hereby designated as wilderness, and therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System—

(1) certain lands in the Gila National Forest, which comprise approximately one hundred and seventy-eight thousand acres which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Aldo Leopold Wilderness Area Proposed" and shall be known as the Aldo Leopold Wilderness;

(2) certain lands in the Apache-Sitgreaves and Gila National Forest, which comprise approximately

thirty-five thousand acres which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Blue Range Wilderness Area Proposed" and shall be known as the Blue Range Wilderness;

(3) certain lands in the Lincoln National Forest which comprise approximately thirty-six thousand four hundred acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Capitan Mountain Wilderness Areas Proposed" and shall be known as the Capitan Mountain Wilderness;

(4) certain lands in the Santa Fe National Forest which comprise approximately five thousand two hundred acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Dome Wilderness Area Proposed" and shall be known as the Dome Wilderness;

(5) certain lands in the Gila National Forest which comprise approximately one hundred and fifty-five thousand acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Gila Wilderness Additions Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Gila Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577;

(6) certain lands in the Lincoln Forest which comprise eighteen thousand acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Guadalupe Escarpment Wil-

derness Additions Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88–577;

(7) certain lands in the Carson National Forest which comprise fifteen thousand six hundred acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Latir Peak Wilderness Proposed" and shall be known as the Latir Peak Wilderness.

(8) certain lands in the Carson and Santa Fe which comprise approximately seventy thousand acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Pecos Wilderness Additions Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in, and shall be deemed to be a part of the Pecos Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88–577;

(9) certain lands in the Carson National Forest which comprise nine thousand one hundred acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Wheeler Peak Wilderness Addition Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88–577.

(10) certain lands in the Lincoln Forest which comprise approximately nineteen thousand one hundred

acres, which are generally depicted in a map entitled "White Mountain Wilderness Addition Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the White Mountain Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88–577; and

(11) certain lands in the Cibola National Forest which comprise approximately nineteen thousand acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Withington Wilderness Proposed" and shall be known as the Withington Wilderness.

SEC. 4. (a) In furtherance of the purpose of the Wilderness Act the lands in the Apache-Sitgreaves and the Gila National Forest comprise approximately twenty-six thousand acres and generally depicted on a map entitled "San Francisco Wilderness Area Proposed" are hereby designated a further study area.

(b) The Secretary shall study these lands for the single purpose of classifying their suitability or nonsuitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) These lands shall continue to be available for use other than wilderness under the existing Forest Service plans applicable to the national forest within which such lands are located.

(2) Such study shall be concluded no later than January 1, 1983.

(c) Upon completion of the study as required in this section, those lands found to be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System shall be so recommended by the Secretary:

(1) Such recommendation shall expire and no longer be valid with the adjournment of the Congress within which such recommendation is made.

(2) Upon the expiration of the Secretary's recommendation for including into the National Wilderness Preservation System those lands shall be administered in a manner pursuant to section 5 of this Act.

(3) Those lands not recommended as wilderness will immediately be administered in a manner pursuant to section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with respect to lands within the National Forest System in New Mexico which have been studied as a part of the Secretary of Agriculture's roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II) and which are not designated for further planning by section 4 of this Act nor designated as wilderness by section 3 of this Act:

(1) Congress does not intend to designate any of these lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) These lands shall continue to be available for uses other than wilderness under the existing Forest Service plans applicable to the national forest within which such lands are located, or under such plans as amended or hereafter modified.

(b) Further recommendation of lands within the National Forest System in New Mexico for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System may be made only ten years after the enactment of this Act and only every tenth year thereafter:

(1) Lands recommended by the Secretary for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System may be administered as wilderness only during the pendency of legislation in the Congress to enact such designation as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) The Secretary's recommendation of lands for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System will expire with adjournment of the Congress during which such recommendation was made.

(3) No lands may be recommended for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System more than once every ten years.

(c) Nothing in the land management planning process required by section 6 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (U.S.C. 1604) shall be deemed to preclude multiple use management for uses other than wilderness on any land subject to such planning process.

(d) The enactment of this legislation shall be conclusive as to the legal and factual sufficiency of the environmental impact statement prepared relative to RARE II with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of New Mexico and no court shall have jurisdiction to consider questions respecting the sufficiency of such statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–61).

Sec. 6. (a) Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area and wilderness addition designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act: *Provided,* That any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

Sec. 7. (a) As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, a map and legal description of each wilderness area and wilderness addition designated by this Act shall be filed with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives, and each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such legal description and map may be made. Each such map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 28, 1980

The Honorable Dale Bumpers, Chairman
Parks, Recreation, and Renewable
Resources Subcommittee
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
3106 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bumpers:

I understand the Parks, Recreation, and Renewable Resources Subcommittee will later this week consider the possible incorporation of S. 1769, a bill designating the Black Elk Wilderness Area in South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest, into another RARE II wilderness bill you will be deliberating over at that time. I would urge the Subcommittee to do so as this proposal is non-controversial, has the support of the State of South Dakota, has been sponsored by the South Dakota Congressional Delegation, and has already been approved in the House of Representatives.

I would ask that this letter be added to the Subcommittee's hearing record on this matter.

Background

The "Black Elk Wilderness" encompasses 10,700 acres surrounding and including Harney Peak within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve in the Black Hills National Forest. It was recommended for wilderness designation by the President and Secretary of Agriculture as a result of the U.S. Forest Service's "roadless area review and evaluation" RARE II.

The sole difference between S. 1769 and the House-passed bill is the name given the wilderness area. The House bill refers to it as "Harney Peak Wilderness". I will make a case for the name Senator Pressler and I prefer later in this letter.

According to the Forest Service's analysis of the site's suitability, it contains high potential for hardrock minerals and moderate potential for uranium. While under normal circumstances such considerations might have dissuaded decision-makers from recommending the area, there are special circumstances which have a bearing upon it.

The Act of June 5, 1920 (43 Stat. 986) and the Act of October 6, 1949 (63 Stat. 708-709) set aside a 34,873 acre area within the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park as the "Norbeck Wildlife Preserve". The proposed 10,700 "Black Elk Wilderness" is within the preserve on Forest Service land.

Because the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve was set aside by Congress for "the protection and propagation of wild game animals and birds" and because any action within it must be of direct benefit to resident species, anyone would be hard-pressed to show that hardrock mineral or uranium development would be compatible with the purposes for which the area is managed. For that reason, such development is effectively foreclosed whether or not the wilderness is designated and ceased to be of concern to decision-makers.

The area contains 6,249 acres of commercial forestland which, if the area is designated as wilderness, the Forest Service has said "would not significantly affect the non-market or market outputs of the Black Hills National Forest".

Most of the resource is softwood sawtimber (39 MMBF) and sawtimber and products (11 MMCF). This isn't a prime commercial timbering area in any case because of its rugged terrain, the dispersed resources, and the lack of roads. The Forest Service's 5-year management plan for the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve provides for no sales in the area whether the wilderness is set-aside or not. The Master Plan for the area calls for closing-off motorized access in any case.

From an administrative standpoint, alinement of the Black Elk Wilderness designation with earlier legislation affecting management of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve will foster the continuation of wildlife management in the area, including manipulation of the habitat upon which it depends. "Left alone", some of the clearings providing the "edge habitat" necessary for Rocky Mountain goats and elk would be overgrown by Ponderosa pine. Wilderness management consistent with the purposes for which the preserve was set-aside will allow controlled or prescribed burning to manipulate the habitat.

Clarifications

In my remarks in the Congressional Record of September 18, 1980, I incorporated a general description of the area surrounding the proposed wilderness which has generated some confusion among my constituents. Black Hills National Forest Supervisor James Mathers wrote to me on November 7, 1980 to say:

> The local news media recently carried erroneous information concerning the proposed...wilderness area. Several news accounts have indicated that both Horsethief and Sylvan Lakes are within the 10,700 acre area being considered for wilderness designation. This is not correct. Although both lakes are adjacent to the proposed wilderness area, neither is within it. The error may have originated from misinterpretation of a Forest Service description of the area which was provided to you some months ago.

Mr. Mathers provided me a map which shows the boundaries of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and marks, in yellow, the boundaries of the proposed Black Elk Wilderness. I am providing this map to the subcommittee for your use.

There has also been some concern expressed to me about the air quality designation for the area. A May 4, 1979, letter from Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland addresses that point.

> If the Norbeck area is designated wilderness by Congress it will not automatically become a Class I air quality area. Wilderness existing on August 7, 1977, and larger than 5,000 acres were made mandatory Class I areas by Congress in the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments. These wildernesses cannot be redesignated to any other Class except by Act of Congress. All other Provision of Significant Deterioration (PSD) areas were initially designated Class II. This includes the wildernesses established after August 7, 1977, RARE II areas, etc.
>
> The Clean Air Act assigns States the authority to redesignate air classes over their lands, including those in Federal ownership, with some restrictions.
>
> 1. Wildernesses established after August 7, 1977, and larger than 10,000 acres may only be redesignated Class I or II by States.
>
> 2. Wildernesses established after August 7, 1977, and less than 10,000 acres may be redesignated Class I, II or III by States.
>
> Thus, the Norbeck area is currently Class II. It will remain Class II unless it is redesignated by the State of South Dakota.

Finally, there may be some confusion as to why the original wilderness area proposed by the Forest Service amounted to 9,400 acres and has now been expanded to 10,700 acres under this legislation. The Forest Service felt it necessary to refine the boundaries to use topographical features. If the original boundary occured along the side of a hill, it was moved to its crest. Such adjustments ranged anywhere from 500 feet to a quarter of a mile. In this way, the additional acreage was "picked up".

Nomenclature

My colleague in the House of Representatives, Jim Abdnor, said in his statement of support for the House's designation of the "Harney Peak Wilderness":

> The name, "Harney Peak Wilderness" has been suggested by the Department of Agriculture and describes the area geographically since its most distinctive feature is Harney Peak. Senator McGovern has suggested the nomenclature "Black Elk Wilderness", however, and I have written a large number of my constituents on this issue. Until such time as I have a better idea of the will of my constituency, I would request that the Committee maintain the "Harney Peak" nomenclature. If the Committee acts and we subsequently tend to favor the "Black Elk" designation, there should be no problem having it adopted in the Senate.

Mr. Chairman, I too have "sounded out" my constituents. I believe the primary interest is in having such an area set aside, not what it is named. Yet, I believe there is a compelling reason to name it after Black Elk, an Ogalala Sioux holy man.

John G. Neihardt, Nebraska poet laureate, assembled several interviews with Black Elk into a book known to millions of readers worldwide as "Black Elk Speaks". That book has subsequently been adapted to the stage. In his preface Neihardt had this to say about Black Elk:

> ...I was deeply impressed by the scope of the man's life experience. In addition to having lived the common life of his people in the good old times as well as in the tragic and heroic years of their final defeat and degradation, from early youth he had lived in and for the world of higher values than those of food and shelter, and his years had been one long, passionate

> devotion to those values as he conceived them. As hunter, warrior, practicing holy man, and indubitable seer, he seemed even then to represent the consciousness of the Plains Indian more fully than any other I had ever known; and when I became well acquainted with his inner world, I knew this to be true.
>
> In his intimate everyday family life Black Elk may fairly be described as a saint in the deeper meaning of that term, as signifying a rare form of genius. The members of his family and his friends all feel this, and the devotions shown to him by those who know him best is striking. Though a profoundly melancholy man, he is cheerful in all his human contacts and radiates an atmosphere of kindliness even when he sits brooding with that look of heart-break in his face that has made at least one white man love him.
>
> ...surely in Black Elk we find the culture of his people in full flower.

You may recall that when Native Americans hiked across the United States on their "Longest Walk" that their T-shirts bore the legend "Black Elk is Speaking".

I am prepared to provide the Senate with a much fuller rationale as to why this area should be named after Black Elk. Nothing will be "taken away" from the memory of General William S. Harney by our doing so. The peak - the centerpiece of the Black Elk Wilderness - will continue to bear his name. This is fitting, as Harney Peak was the "center of the world" to which Black Elk was taken as a child when he had his vision - a vision John Neihardt's daughter Hilda Neihardt Petry wrote me:

> ...has captured the minds and hearts of people throughout this country and around the world. The beautiful prayer given by Black Elk on Harney Peak is an inspiration to many.
>
> In short, it is not only important to preserve the Harney Peak area for generations to come, it is historically, morally and spiritually so very right to designate it as the "Black Elk Wilderness".

Finally, Mr. Chairman, in researching General Harney's reputation, I stumbled upon a stunning passage from Annie D. Tallent's history of the first 25 years of white man's presence in the Black Hills entitled "The Black Hills; or the Last Hunting Grounds of the Dakotahs".

Senator Dale Bumpers
May 28, 1980
Page Six

Annie Tallent is well-known among my constituents as the first white woman known to have entered the Black Hills and as a school teacher there. Therefore I was surprised to read this description of General Harney's first visit to the peak which now bears his name. Contrast it with Black Elk's spiritual visit and I am willing to let the Subcommittee decide after whom it is more appropriate to name a wilderness area.

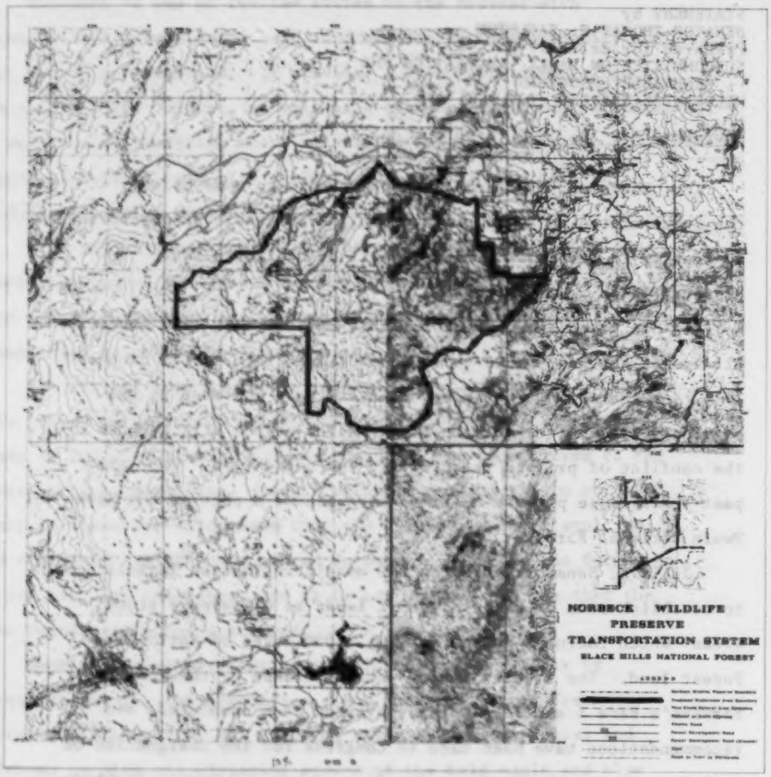
> Prior to the year 1874, that portion of the Indian Territory known as the Black Hills, was a part and parcel of the happy hunting ground of the red man, and had for long centuries lain in an isolation almost as complete as "Darkest Africa." Up to that year none of the several expeditions sent to this Western country for the purpose of exploration or subduing the hostilities of the Indians, had succeeded individually or collectively in penetrating the mountain fastnesses of the Black Hills, with the sole exception of General Harney, who, with members of his staff, climbed the rugged peak, which was honored with that brave officer's name, and on its lofty summit unfurled our national emblem for the first time to the mountain breeze, and under its sacred folds pledged to it their allegiance and undying loyalty in numerous bumpers of sparkling champagne, as evidenced by the many empty bottles discovered on the spot by the pioneers two decades later. And thereby hangs a romantic tale.

There is a spiritual value in wilderness. The view Black Elk describes from Harney Peak is as filled with awe as was Annie Tallent's description of her own personal visit there many years after General Harney. Black Elk described himself as "surrounded by the world" and Annie Tallent said "perhaps no more enchanting scene ever greeted human vision".

Mr. Chairman, it is important that the values of Harney Peak and the area surrounding it be preserved for generations to come. The memory of South Dakota's foremost conservationist, former State Senator, Governor and United States Senator Peter Norbeck will be recalled as visitors enter the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. The memory of a great General and one of the area's first Peace Commissioners will be recalled as the visitor climbs Harney Peak. The memory and vision of an Ogalala Sioux holy man will come to mind as the visitor then contemplates the vista spread out before him - the Black Elk Wilderness.

Sincerely,

George McGovern


NORBECK WILDLIFE PRESERVE
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST
LEGEND

STATEMENT by
SENATOR THOMAS F. EAGLETON
Prepared for delivery to
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND
RENEWABLE RESOURCES
WILDERNESS HEARING

Thursday, May 29, 1980 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to come before the Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation and Renewable Resources today to testify in favor of S. 1685, a bill to designate four Missouri lands as wilderness.

It has taken seven years for this day to come. The Eastern Wilderness Act was passed in 1973 and signed into law in January 1974. At that time, four Missouri areas were included in the original bill, but deleted in final drafts of the bill because of the conflict of private lands within the boundaries. Over the past years those private holdings have become a part of the Mark Twain National Forest.

In 1976, Senator Symington and myself introduced legislation to establish some of these Missouri lands as wilderness study areas--which included approximately 28,000 acres of National Forest land. The studies, which were overtaken by the Forest Service's Rare I and II studies, have now been completed, and recommendations have been made to Congress for the designation of Bell Mountain, Rockpile Mountain, Piney Creek and Devils Backbone. The time spent by Congress, the Forest Service and the public in reviewing the potential of these lands has been time well spent. The questions raised over private holdings, potential timber and mineral interests have been successfully resolved. It is now time to complete the cycle by officially designating these lands as Missouri wilderness.

(more)

Missouri is one of the few states in the Midwest with potential wilderness areas left, and wilderness is a commodity that should be protected. It provides a clean watershed, clean air and wildlife habitat, as well as a place of solitude. It offers an undisturbed ecosystem where scientific research can take place and affords both city dwellers and rural inhabitants an outdoor recreation alternative.

With an increased population the pressure has increased for commercial use of the land. I do believe that national forest land should be managed for the most efficient production of commodities necessary for the country.

Yet for the sake of future generations of Americans, we should take action to set aside a small portion of the National Forest lands to preserve them as nature intended. For in addition to the environmental advantages, we must maintain a glimpse into our heritage--into the wilderness that the American settler explored and conquered. Wilderness played an integral part in the formation of our national character, and it is now up to us to see that the last vestiges are not destroyed.

Each of Missouri's four areas being considered today is unique within its own boundaries. For instance, Piney Creek attracts visitors from all over the state as well as Kansas and Oklahoma to view the wintering ground of the bald eagle and blue heron. The Devils Backbone area is characterized by the rugged topography of its 6,830 acres. Wildlife is abundant and includes the ruffed grouse, which is returning now to Missouri soil. Bell Mountain and Rockpile Mountain both are easily accessible to Saint Louis and feature broken ridges with unusual shut-ins, caves and rock formations. Each wilderness area is a new experience, and each changes with the seasons providing a virtual kaleidoscope of nature.

The natural beauty of Missouri should not be dealt with recklessly; after all, our children and their children should have the opportunity of knowing and loving Missouri at its best.

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Statement of Senator John C. Danforth
to
The Parks, Recreation, and Renewable Resources
Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
May 29, 1980

Senator Eagleton and I introduced S. 1685 in August of last year. The purpose of this bill is to designate four areas in Missouri's Mark Twain National Forest as units of the National Wilderness Preservation System. These areas have been recommended by Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II program (RARE II). The areas are: Bell Mountain, Rockpile Mountain, Piney Creek and Devil's Backbone. The designation of these areas is not controversial.

Bell Mountain is located in Iron County, Missouri. It consists of 8,530 acres and is a part of the St. Francois Mountains, one of the oldest landforms in North America. Rockpile Mountain is also part of the St. Francois Mountains, and contains 4,170 acres. The Piney Creek area is 8,430 acres and contains the entire drainage of Piney Creek which empties into the James River arm of Table Rock Lake. The fourth area, Devil's Backbone, is 6,830 acres.

The wilderness values of these areas are outstanding, and the economic impact of designating these areas as units of the Wilderness Preservation System are minimal. Moreover, these units represent miniscule fractions of Missouri's land base. Setting aside this small amount of land in order to preserve some of Missouri's rapidly vanishing wilderness resource and heritage is a worthwhile contribution to future generations.

Senator **Domenici**. Our first witness this afternoon is Mr. Doug Leisz, Associate Chief, U.S. Forest Service.

To expedite the matter, the Forest Service is prepared to submit their testimony on South Dakota and Missouri.

Will you please take the witness stand.

Is it correct? Senator Bumpers indicates you have all your testimony in writing and that since there is no controversy you are prepared to submit it with reference to the Missouri and South Dakota matter?

Mr. **Leisz**. That is correct.

Senator **Domenici**. That testimony will be made a part of the record in its entirety.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Leisz follows:]

STATEMENT OF
DOUGLAS R. LEISZ, ASSOCIATE CHIEF
FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Before the Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation
and Renewable Resources
of the
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate

On S. 1769 in the State of South Dakota; S. 1685, in the State of Missouri and S. 2583, in the State of New Mexico. Bills to designate certain National Forest System lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

May 29, 1980

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to review with you the Administration's wilderness recommendations for the National Forests in the States of South Dakota, Missouri, and New Mexico. These recommendations are contained in S. 1769, S. 1685, and S. 2583, respectively.

We commend the Chairman for prompt consideration of these wilderness proposals. We are anxious to work with the Committee on these and other wilderness recommendations.

I will comment on the wilderness proposals for the three States, beginning with South Dakota, which has 1 area, then Missouri with 4 areas, and conclude with New Mexico which has 11 of the Administration's 14 recommendations.

SOUTH DAKOTA

S. 1769 would designate as wilderness 10,700 acres in the Black Hills National Forest. The Black Elk Wilderness would become a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System and be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act and the act establishing the Custer State Park Sanctuary and later named the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve.

The Black Elk area is one of five roadless areas on National Forest System lands in South Dakota that was included in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). As a result of this review, the President recommended wilderness designation for this area under the name Harney Peak, a prominent feature in the area. We understand there is considerable public interest in designating the area as the Black Elk Wilderness. We have no objection to this name change.

The area is adjacent to Mount Rushmore and includes some of the highest country east of the Rocky Mountains. The area provides habitat for Rocky Mountain goats and range for elk. It provides an outstanding representation of the Black Hills pine forest ecosystem.

The proposed Black Elk Wilderness is located within the 27,766-acre Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. On June 5, 1920, Congress passed a law authorizing the establishment of a game sanctuary on National Forest land adjacent to Custer State Park. The area was initially designated as the Custer State Park Game Sanctuary. Various boundary adjustments were made through the years, and in 1949 the sanctuary's name was changed to the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. The preserve was established for the protection of game animals, and birds, and as a game breeding area.

Management activities permitted under the preserve designation include fire protection, timber harvest, grazing, campground development and manipulation of vegetation to enhance wildlife habitat. Timber harvest, campground development, and habitat manipulation are not consistent with the proposed wilderness designation.

While we have no objection to the continuation of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve status for the 10,700-acre wilderness proposal, we believe all wildernesses should be managed based on the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act. In the event a conflict in management of the area between the wilderness and preserve designations, the wilderness designation would take precedence. This will permit continued protection of wildlife resources in keeping with the objectives of the Wildlife Preserve, yet providing management that insures protection of the wilderness resource. We recommend amending the part of section 3 which states that the provisions of the Act of June 5, 1920, and the Act of October 6, 1949, shall also apply to the wilderness. The approach we suggest would not remove the preserve status for the 10,700-acre wilderness proposal but would clarify the management direction for the Black Elk Wilderness.

MISSOURI

S. 1685 would designate as wilderness four areas on the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri totaling approximately 27,821 acres. The four areas are among ten roadless and undeveloped areas on National Forest System lands in Missouri that were included in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) inventory. Three of the areas are congressionally-designated study areas that were evaluated as part of RARE II. As a result of this review, the President recommended wilderness designation for the four areas included in S. 1685.

These four areas, located in the heart of the scenic Ozarks of southern Missouri, would be invaluable additions to the Nation's wilderness system. The proposed Bell Mountain Wilderness and Rockpile Mountain Wilderness, both congressionally-mandated wilderness study areas, are part of the St. Frances Mountains. They represent a visual kaleidoscope with broad green glades, steep gorges with pure spring-fed streams, long talus slopes, and numerous rock formations. Evidence of the area's cultural history abounds as does a variety of wildlife.

The acreage of the Administration's wilderness proposals vary slightly from those contained in S. 1685. The Administration recommended a 7,300-acre Bell Mountain Wilderness which excludes 300 acres of private lands and approximately 1,000 acres because of outstanding mineral rights and a powerline. We continue to urge adoption of the 7,300-acre proposal, rather than 8,530 acres.

The Administration recommended a 3,920-acre Rockpile Mountain Wilderness which excludes 80 acres of private land and three small areas totaling 50 acres. These areas were excluded because of nonconforming uses. We recommend exclusion of these nonconforming uses and urge adoption of our 3,920-acre proposal, rather than 4,120 acres contained in S.1685.

The Administration's proposals for Piney Creek Wilderness and Devil's Backbone Wilderness are identical to the areas proposed in S. 1685. The proposed 6,800-acre Devil's Backbone Wilderness is an area of heavy forest cover, limestone glades, and wild azaleas. Secondary attractions are the many springs which feed the beautiful North Fork River. Wildlife is abundant and diverse, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, both great blue and green heron, and numerous songbirds. The proposed 8,400-acre Piney Creek Wilderness also is a congressionally-mandated wilderness study area. The proposed wilderness includes the entire Piney Creek watershed with its narrow ridge tops and deep canyons. The variety of vegetation and wildlife in Piney Creek is exaggerated because of the convergence of many ecosystems, many of which contain species at the limit of their natural ranges such as the roadrunner and bald eagle.

We recommend an amendment which releases the three congressionally-mandated wilderness study areas from the provisions of section 3(d) of the Act of October 19, 1976, directing that these areas be studied for wilderness suitability. We would be happy to provide the Committee with appropriate language.

NEW MEXICO

The Administration's wilderness recommendations for New Mexico include 10 new wildernesses and additions to 4 wildernesses for a 813,760-acre increase in New Mexico wilderness. S. 2583 includes 11 of the Administration's 14 recommendations. It would establish 7 new wildernesses totaling approximately 307,000 acres and add approximately 253,000 acres to 4 existing National Forest wildernesses for a total of 560,000 acres. This proposal makes significant additions to 4 existing wildernesses and includes areas with outstanding scenery. The new wilderness proposals expand the opportunities for a wilderness experience in many New Mexico areas.

Three proposals included in S. 2583 are identical to the Administration's recommendations. They include the proposed Capitan Mountain Wilderness, 36,400 acres of rugged mountains rising abruptly from the surrounding grasslands, on the Lincoln National Forest. The most spectacular features of the mountains are the numerous rock glaciers which "flow" downward from the crest. A second proposal is the Dome Wilderness, a 5,200-acre area located adjacent to the

Bandelier National Monument wilderness, that contains an unusual variety of vegetation, wildlife and cultural resources. Eagles and other raptors are found in the area, and bat colonies are scattered throughout the area's caves. The area also contains tent rocks, lava escarpments, Indian ruins and petroglyphs. The third area is the 19,000-acre Withington Wilderness proposal located in a steep and rugged portion of the San Mateo Mountains. This area of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, black bear, elk, cougar and turkey. We are pleased to see these proposals included in S. 2583.

Three of the Administration's recommendations were completely omitted from S. 2583; Canadian River, Apache Kid and Lower Frisco. The proposed Canadian River Wilderness is a 3,460-acre area in the Canadian River Canyon on the Kiowa National Grasslands in northeast New Mexico. The area is the Southwest's only representation of the prairie-grassland ecosystem and contains two exotic wildlife species not native to the area - Siberian ibex and Barbary sheep.

The proposed Apache Kid Wilderness is a 133,000-acre area in the steep, rugged, and rocky terrain in the San Mateo Mountains. A major portion of the area includes pinyon-juniper woodland, ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest. Black bear, cougar, elk, antelope, and mule deer are the major wildlife species. We recognize there are numerous range improvements in the eastern part of the area and we believe the majority of these improvements can continue under the provisions of the Wilderness Act. We urge your serious consideration of this important proposal which has significant wilderness and wildlife values.

The proposed Lower Frisco Wilderness is a 8,800-acre area on the New Mexico-Arizona state line that consists of the San Francisco River and its steep-sided river canyon. The area provides habitat for bighorn sheep, mule deer, whitetail deer, mountain lion, golden eagle and variety of waterfowl and birds. The area also receives winter use by bald eagles and peregrine falcons. The canyon has been used extensively by early man. Some Indian ruins and cliff dwellings are included within this proposal. S. 2583 proposes a further study designation for approximately 26,000 acres in the San Francisco River Area. The entire 26,000-acre area was evaluated during the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) and only 8,800 acres were recommended for wilderness because of the strong opposition by local elected officials and agencies, potential reductions in timber harvest of approximately 3 million board feet and possible reductions in grazing. We urge adoption of our 8,800-acre wilderness proposal as a reasonable compromise. We do not believe additional study will result in any new or additional information not considered in the RARE II decision.

We urge that all three of these wilderness recommendations be considered for wilderness designation.

There are 8 areas where the acreage proposed in S. 2583 differs from the Administration's proposal. There are substantial differences in the majority of these areas. With the use of projected transparencies in some cases, I will briefly discuss these differences for each area, beginning with the new wilderness proposals.

NEW WILDERNESS

GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT

This 21,000-acre wilderness proposal is located adjacent to Carlsbad Caverns National Park wilderness and contains some of the wildest and most spectacular country remaining undeveloped in New Mexico. Portions of the Capitan Barrier Reef, perhaps the best exposed and most significant fossil reef in the world is located in the area.

S. 2583 includes 18,000 acres of the Administration's wilderness proposal but deletes approximately 3,000 acres at the western end of the proposal. We urge adoption of the President's recommendation for a 21,000-acre wilderness, which would mean that this 3,000-area portion in North McKittrick Canyon would be designated wilderness. This provides for a continuous wilderness from the Carlsbad Caverns National Park Wilderness to the Guadalupe National Park Wilderness in Texas.

LATIR PEAK

This high elevation wilderness proposal lies along the top of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range in northern New Mexico and represents subalpine ecosystems.

The proposal in S. 2583 eliminates approximately 9,000 acres of highly scenic area from the eastern portion of the Administration's 24,600-acre proposal and results in a boundary difficult to manage. We continued to urge adoption of our initial proposal.

ALDO LEOPOLD

The current Administration proposal is to add the 34,480-acre RARE II area (A3162) and 28,846 acres of the previously excluded Primitive Area to the 1971 recommendation for a 251,421-acre Aldo Leopold Wilderness.

Rising from hot, dry desert and semidesert, the Black Range stands as a prominent land feature from nearly all directions. The deep canyons and timbered ridges create a superlative natural setting.

We urge adoption of the Administration's recommendation and careful consideration of the 73,000 acres not included in the 178,000 acre proposal in S. 2583. The area excluded has high wilderness values.

BLUE RANGE

The Administration's proposal Blue Range Wilderness straddles the Arizona- New Mexico state line and consists of several RARE II roadless areas and portions of the Blue Range Primitive Area. About 40,000 acres of the proposal are in New Mexico.

The eastern end of the Mogollon Rim is within this rugged mountainous area. The Rim was glamorized by Zane Grey as the "Tonto Rim" in his famous novels. The proposed wilderness offers outstanding scenery, broad expanse of coniferous forests, spectacular rock formations and ecological zones from semi-desert to high mountain conditions. The natural beauty, the wildlife, the prehistoric Indian ruins, and the remoteness blend together in the "Tonto Rim" to offer a unique wilderness experience to the visitor.

S. 2583 includes approximately 35,000 acres of the Administration's recommendation. It excludes approximately 5,000 acres along the eastern and southern boundary of the proposal which we believe are essential for a well defined and manageable wilderness boundary. We urge adoption of the President's 40,000-acre wilderness recommendation.

-

WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

WHITE MOUNTAINS

This 19,600-acre area is composed of five tracts, all of which are adjacent to the existing White Mountain Wilderness. These additions improve the boundaries of the wilderness and include the headwater of both Eagle and Bonito Creeks, which are major streams in this portion of New Mexico.

S. 2583 proposes identical additions with the exception of two small parcels totaling approximately 500 acres. We do not object strongly to these minor boundary adjustments.

PECOS

The Administration's proposed additions to the Pecos Wilderness totaling 71,000 acres include steep, rugged high elevation sub-alpine tundra, and mixed coniferous forests. It includes numerous small streams and high elevation peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of north central New Mexico.

S. 2583 includes 70,000 acres, essentially all of the Administration's recommendation for this area. The Senate bill deletes one small area on the eastern edge of the proposal. We estimate the acreage to be less than 1,000 acres, and we have no strong objection to this boundary adjustment.

WHEELER PEAK

This 14,700-acre addition to the Wheeler Peak Wilderness more than doubles the size of the existing wilderness and includes some outstanding habitat for the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep that were reintroduced just outside the wilderness in 1968.

S. 2583 includes the addition on the west side of the existing wilderness which totals 9,100 acres. Approximately 5,600 acres have been omitted on the eastern side of the wilderness. We urge adoption of our 14,700 acre recommendation.

GILA

The Administration's proposal is to add approximately 50,000 of the Gila Primitive Area and 600 acres of roadless area A3156 to the 1974 proposal for a recommended addition to the Gila Wilderness of 166,000 acres. This action would create a 595,000-acre Gila Wilderness.

The proposed additions offers much true wilderness terrain. This is some of the area recommended by Leopold for wilderness. The variety of vegetation, climatic conditions, and topography offers a challenge for visitors. The area contain unique volcanic rock escarpments, pinnacles, and spires along major drainages, and the largest stand of virgin ponderosa pine in the world.

S. 2583 proposes 155,000 acres be added to the Gila Wilderness. It deletes an 11,000-acre area on the southeast side of the wilderness. We continue to urge this area be made part of the wilderness.

RELEASE LANGUAGE

Section 5 of S. 2583 would direct that any lands studied as part of RARE II and not designated as wilderness or further planning by this act would be available for uses other than wilderness. It further precludes the Secretary from making any additional wilderness recommendations in New Mexico for a ten year period and then those recommendations would expire with the adjournment of the Congress during which such recommendations were made. Section 5(d) would ratify the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement with respect to the National Forest System lands in New Mexico.

We strongly object to all forms of so-called "release" language. We object to the provision of Section 5 that would immediately release all areas not designated as wilderness or further planning by this act. With regard to the nonwilderness areas, such language is unnecessary because these areas are available now for nonwilderness activities. This section would result in all further planning area, except the 26,000 acre San Francisco area, being managed for uses other than wilderness. We believe these further planning areas are worthy of additional consideration for possible wilderness designation. Consequently we object to the provision prohibiting the Secretary from making any additional wilderness recommendation for a 10-year period. Likewise, we believe it is undesirable to impose a deadline on Congressional action for any future wilderness recommendations for New Mexico.

We also believe the statement in Section 5(d) regarding the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement with regard to National Forest System lands in New Mexico is unnecessary.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my statement. I would be happy to respond to your questions.

STATEMENT OF HON. PETE V. DOMENICI, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Senator DOMENICI. We will then proceed.

You were scheduled to be the first witness, but in deference, we thought that we might ask the representative of the Governor to testify first.

Is Virginia Sears here?

If you will take the witness chair, we will have a few opening remarks, Senator Schmitt and I, and then we will proceed.

Senator Bumpers, in your absence, we took care of this business and Missouri and South Dakota have been handled properly. Their testimony is in the record and we were going to call the Governor's representative on the New Mexico matters. Virginia Sears will precede Mr. Leisz.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Schmitt and New Mexicans that are here, I thought I might just give a quick little history of the way I perceive the evolution of this problem and why we are here.

For some of you, perhaps, this is an old hat, but basically I think it is generally understood that there is a very specific statute that indicates the characteristics for wilderness and specifically indicates that it is the responsibility of Congress and Congress solely to designate wilderness areas within the National Forest.

I think you are all aware of that statute, and I only make the point because as compared with other management practices or administrative procedures that are followed by the Secretary and his representatives, the Forest Wilderness is very precisely designated as something that Congress by law establishes.

I think the second important issue historically is the episode surrounding RARE I. Most of you are aware of the fact that starting back in 1972 a process called RARE I was initiated.

It was initiated administratively, and it had as its goal the evaluation of roadless areas within the forest for ultimate recommendation after study for possible inclusion within the wilderness system.

That history is rather complicated. It was found by the courts, because of NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act, which was passed in the middle of that process, to be defective in terms of complying with NEPA.

That brought the second major episode in the history of why we are here. It brought forth a commitment from the administration in 1976 and 1977 that they would resolve the disputes by going into all the forest lands of the Nation and do a complete evaluation of the roadless areas for possible designation, recommendation as wilderness. That is commonly called RARE II, and as you know, that took place, again I repeat, it was administrative. That was not by enactment of Congress with reference to the creation of a wilderness or the establishment of a wilderness area;

New Mexico, along with all the other Western States, has been part of that evaluation. The prime administrators being the Forest Service—they have had their hearings, made their studies, and many of you here who will testify have been part of that process.

As a result of that process, the Forest Service, as professional administrators, recommended somewhere around 580,000 acres for wilderness. However, that went to the administration and they actually changed some areas and some were added. We have a recommendation but not a bill from the administration with reference to New Mexico, and again historically, this has been the way this one was done.

They didn't take all of the area and send us a bill. They sent no bills. They merely made recommendations after their study and that recommendation was 813,760 acres for wilderness, with approximately half of the San Francisco being wilderness and half being a study, as you know;

Why are we here?

Obviously you have all received the letter from the delegation that Senator Schmitt, Congressman Lujan, Congressman Runnels, and myself signed, included a bill with three parts. It indicated that as representatives of the citizens of New Mexico in Congress, we feel that this proposal is in the best interest of all New Mexicans.

We, however, remain openminded to additional comments prior to the introduction of this legislation. We want you to know that that is still the case and in order to have a hearing we introduced the bill, and if you will note, it is introduced in such a way that it accomplishes this purpose.

We introduce it, but we do not make it the formal business because we want to have the hearing to get your input. We will make that a part of the record, Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Bumpers** [presiding]. Without objection.

Senator **Domenici**. From my standpoint, I am convinced that it is the responsibility of the Congress to designate wilderness areas. The history that I have given you is replete with studies, evaluations, administrative decisions. From my standpoint, I believe that it is time for us to follow the statute which says Congress designates wilderness areas, so it seems to me that it is not only appropriate, but it is our responsibility after these studies have been completed to exercise that authority one way or another.

I am hopeful that we will be able to do this in a constructive nanner. But I must say that I don't believe we can continue ndefinitely with studies with respect to wilderness areas, and it is n that context that I am part of this hearing. Hopefully we will be ble to arrive at some degree of finality with enough openness for he future in terms of further activities on the part of Congress to nake it a reasonable approach.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The letter from the delegation referred to follows:]

U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici U.S. Sen. Jack Schmitt
U.S. Rep. Manuel Lujan U.S. Rep. Harold Runnels

New Mexico Rare II Proposals

SEN. PETE V. DOMENICI
SEN. HARRISON H. SCHMITT
PAT [illegible], Director
[illegible]

REP. MANUEL LUJAN, JR.
REP. HAROLD RUNNELS

Congress of the United States

NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
PROJECTS OFFICE
[illegible] SENATE COURTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

The New Mexico Congressional delegation has completed a draft proposal designating certain U.S. forest lands as additions to the Wilderness system.

This bill is based on the solicited responses the delegation received from New Mexicans and from the recommendations made by the Forest Service. All told, we heard from the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock representatives, Mining Companies, the Environmental Community, Indian tribes, Timber interests and concerned individual citizens.

We as the representatives of the citizens of New Mexico in the Congress feel that this proposal is in the best interest of all New Mexicans. We, however, remain open-minded to any additional comments prior to introduction of this legislation. Comments will be accepted until May 15, 1980. Congressional Hearings on the bill will be held shortly thereafter.

We promised that New Mexicans would decide the use of land in New Mexico. This legislation is the embodiment of that promise.

Pete V. Domenici
Pete V. Domenici

Manuel Lujan
Manuel Lujan Jr.

Harrison Schmitt
Harrison H. Schmitt

Harold Runnels
Harold Runnels

DRAFT OF PROPOSED RARE II LEGISLATION

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, to designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of New Mexico for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980".

FINDINGS AND POLICY

SEC. 2 (a) The Congress finds that –

(1) many areas of undeveloped public lands in New Mexico possess outstanding natural characteristics giving them high values as wilderness and will, if properly preserved, contribute as an enduring resource for the benefit of the American people;

(2) review and evaluation of roadless and undeveloped lands in the National Forest System in New Mexico has identified those areas which, on the basis of their landform, ecosystem, associated wildlife, and location will help to fulfill the National Forest System's share of the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) review and evaluation of roadless and undeveloped lands in the National Forest System in New Mexico has also identified those areas which should be available for multiple uses other than wilderness.

(b) The purposes of this Act are to –

(1) insure that certain National Forest System lands in New Mexico be promptly available for nonwilderness uses including, but not limited to, campground and other recreation site development, timber harvesting, intensive range management, mineral development and watershed and vegetation manipulation; and

(2) designate certain other National Forest System lands in New Mexico for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to promote, perpetuate, and preserve the wilderness character of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and to promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all the American people.

SEC. 3 (a) In furtherance of the purpose of the Wilderness Act and in accord with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the following lands in the State of New Mexico comprising approximately 560,400 acres and as generally depicted on maps appropriately referenced, dated April 1980, are hereby designated as wilderness, and therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System –

(1) certain lands in the Gila National Forest, which comprise approximately 178,000 acres which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Aldo Leopold Wilderness Area Proposed" and shall be known as the Aldo Leopold Wilderness;

(2) certain lands in the Apache-Sitgreaves and Gila National Forest, which comprise approximately 35,000 acres which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Blue Range Wilderness Area Proposed" and shall be known as the Blue Range Wilderness;

(3) certain lands in the Lincoln National Forest which comprise approximately 36,400 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Capitan Mountain Wilderness Areas Proposed" and shall be known as the Capitan Mountain Wilderness;

(4) certain lands in the Santa Fe National Forest which comprise approximately 5,200 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Dome Wilderness Area Proposed" and shall be known as the Dome Wilderness;

(5) certain lands in the Gila National Forest which comprise approximately 155,000 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Gila Wilderness Additions Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Gila Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577;

(6) certain lands in the Lincoln Forest which comprise 18,000 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Additions Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577;

(7) certain lands in the Carson National Forest which comprise 15,600 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Latir Peak Wilderness Proposed" and shall be known as the Latir Peak Wilderness.

(8) certain lands in the Carson and Santa Fe which comprise approximately 70,000 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Pecos Wilderness Additions Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in, and shall be deemed to be a part of, the Pecos Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577.

(9) certain lands in the Carson National Forest which comprise 9,100 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Wheeler Peak Wilderness Addition Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577.

(10) certain lands in the Lincoln National Forest which comprise approximately 19,100 acres, which are generally depicted in a map entitled "White Mountain Wilderness Addition Proposed" and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the White Mountain Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577.

(11) certain lands in the Cibola National Forest which comprise approximately 19,000 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Withington Wilderness Proposed" and shall be know as the Withington Wilderness.

SEC. 4 (a) In furtherance of the purpose of the Wilderness Act the lands in the Apache-Sitgreaves and the Gila National Forest comprise approximately 26,000 acres and generally depicted on a map entitled "San Francisco Wilderness Area Proposed" are hereby designated a further study area.

(b) The Secretary shall study these lands for the single purpose of classifying their suitability or nonsuitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(1) these lands shall continue to be available for use other than wilderness under the existing Forest Service plans applicable to the National Forest within which such lands are located.

(2) such study shall be concluded no later than January 1, 1983.

(c) Upon completion of the study as required in this selection, those lands found to be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System shall be so recommended by the Secretary;

(1) such recommendation shall expire and no longer be valid with adjournment of the Congress within which such recommendation is made.

(2) Upon the expiration of the Secretary's recommendation for including into the National Wilderness Preservation System those lands shall be administered in a manner pursuant to Section 5 of this Act.

(3) Those lands not recommended as Wilderness will immediately be administered in a manner pursuant to Section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 5 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with respect to lands within the National Forest System in New Mexico which have been studied as a part of the Secretary of Agriculture's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation Program (RARE II) and which are not designated for further planning by Section 4 of this Act nor designated as wilderness by Section 3 of this Act:

(1) Congress does not intend to designate any of these lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) these lands shall continue to be available for uses other than wilderness under the existing Forest Service plans applicable to the national forest within which such lands are located, or under such plans as amended or hereafter modified.

(b) Further recommendation of lands within the National Forest System in New Mexico for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System may be made only ten years after the enactment of this Act and only every tenth year thereafter.

(1) Lands recommended by the Secretary for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System may be administered as wilderness only during the pendency of legislation in the Congress to enact such designation as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) The Secretary's recommendation of lands for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System will expire with adjournment of the Congress during which such recommendation was made.

(3) No lands may be recommended for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System more than once every ten years.

(c) Nothing in the land management planning process required by Section 6 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (U.S.C. 1604) shall be deemed to preclude multiple use management for uses other than wilderness on any land subject to such planning process.

(d) The enactment of this legislation shall be conclusive as to the legal and factual sufficiency of the environmental impact statement prepared relative to RARE II with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of New Mexico and no court shall have jurisdiction to consider questions respecting the sufficiency of such statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-61).

SEC. 6 (a) Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area and wilderness addition designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act: Provided, That any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 7 (a) As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, a map and legal description of each wilderness area and wilderness addition designated by this Act shall be filed with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives, and each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: Provided, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such legal description and map may be made. Each such map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service Department of Agriculture.

Senator **Domenici**. I believe Senator Schmitt wanted to make a few remarks.

STATEMENT OF HON. HARRISON SCHMITT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Senator **Schmitt**. Mr. Chairman, I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for allowing expedited consideration of S. 2583, a bill to create wilderness areas from Forest Service lands in New Mexico.

We are all aware of the crush of legislation which the authorizing committees must deal with as the end of the 96th Congress draws near and the additional burden that any extra pieces of legislation creates for the members of this committee.

This hearing emphasizes the importance of this legislation to quickly end the uncertainty in the status of the lands which have been recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service as a result of the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, No. 2, or RARE II. It is imperative that this legislation be passed during the 96th Congress so that those lands which the Congress consider and deem unsuitable for inclusion in the national wilderness system can be quickly released from a protective status and put under multiple-use plans which will benefit the people and economy of the State.

It is unfortunate, in this regard, that current law does not permit flexible multiple-use of wilderness so that preservation and economic benefit can go hand-in-hand, taking advantage of new knowledge and technology as well as new national needs.

It may well be that sometime in the future hearings looking at this particular aspect of our modern situation would be appropriate in this committee.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation reflects the input from many New Mexicans with widely divergent viewpoints and the best compromise which we, as a delegation, initially, could work between those viewpoints under the constraints of current law.

This hearing and the comments we have received since the introduction of S. 2583 will provide information which will result in changes in the original bill so that it will represent even more closely all New Mexican concerns and future New Mexico needs as fairly as possible.

Many comments have been received by all four of our congressional offices which have brought additional facts to our attention which we feel should be taken into consideration. These comments are comprised of information which would cause additions to deletions from the recommended wilderness designations in S. 2583.

I do not support the contention that all lands recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness or further study should be designated for wilderness, or future generations of New Mexicans will be deprived of their heritage.

Nor do I support the reverse contention that no lands should be designated as wilderness or the economy of New Mexico will fall into shambles and new growth halted. I do support a compromise between these two positions which can be reached if each interest group will consider what its highest priorities are and where it is possible to compromise.

A compromise which preserves some lands as wilderness for future generations to enjoy and allows others to return to multiple-use under Forest Service management to facilitate economic growth will provide the maximum benefit for New Mexicans now and in the future. It is that compromise which I hope this hearing will help us to achieve.

I want to compliment the distinguished Senator from New Mexico for his hard work on this and also the Members of the House from New Mexico, Congressman Lujan and Congressman Runnels for their assistance in preparing this bill and for helping us to understand the provisions necessary within it.

It has been a useful process, one in which we have all worked on, and I think probably from the standpoint of other bills currently before the committee maybe a unique process with cooperation between the entire delegation of the State.

Senator **Bumpers**. Thank you, Senator Schmitt.

Senator **Domenici**. Would you permit me just one observation? I think, Jack, that we ought to also thank our respective staffs and the staff of the committee. I really believe everyone, whether they agree or disagree with the bill, has to understand the tremendous amount of work they did, literally thousands of correspondence with individuals. I personally want to thank Senator Bumpers, the chairman of this subcommittee, as he has been most accommodating and understanding.

I want to thank you for what you have done for us. I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, since you are going to be involved, I assume for a number of years in these kinds of problems, that Senator Schmitt raised a very good point.

I think you will hear a very specific situation when he refers to the kind of uses that might be made of a wilderness and still preserve it. We have a situation with ranchers who are permitted technically to continue grazing, and when a wilderness is created it is said they can continue to do that. Then you look at the specific rules, where they have been able to manage their water and other things and have been for years, on the one hand they can continue to graze, on the other hand, the way they have managed their water and other resources are just about wiped out.

So you have a confrontation instead of any attempt to accommodate, and I think we will hear about that in terms of a number of areas in this overall proposal.

And if there was some was to make an accommodation there, I think Senator Schmitt would agree it would begin to resolve a number of the very basic issues. It wouldn't resolve the overall look at different uses, but that would be one of the very specific ones.

Senator **Schmitt**. I would add on the other side of the coin, many areas now designated as wilderness are suffering from the lack of coordinated management of them. They are just too small to really be a wilderness, and as a result either because of over use by hikers and tourists in genenal or because of disease or fire danger, they are in great danger of being destroyed and would no longer be available to anybody.

I think we are learning enough now with experience behind us for the last decade to begin to look toward examining what may be the optimum way in which these lands can be preserved and in some cases also utilized simultaneously.

Senator **BUMPERS** [presiding]. Ms. Sears, you represent the Governor?

Ms. **SEARS**. Yes. I am sorry he can't be here today, but in addition to other things, he is suffering from a very bad case of laryngitis.

STATEMENT OF HON. BRUCE KING, GOVERNOR, STATE OF NEW MEXICO, AS PRESENTED BY VIRGINIA SEARS, DIRECTOR, STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ms. **SEARS**. Mr. Chairman, I am here today, as you know, to present the testimony on behalf of Governor Bruce King and he also has asked me to express his regrets that he could not be here. On his behalf I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed New Mexico RARE II legislation.

The Governor's staff has been monitoring this program since its inception and we certainly understand the significant problems associated with addressing the question of RARE II. We recognize the need to protect values identified by the Wilderness Act, but at the same time, we are concerned as to how this protection may interfere with the orderly use and development of New Mexico's natural resources.

The filing of the RARE II final environmental statement on January 4, 1979, climaxed a year and a half of work to assess the values and determine the most appropriate use of over 62 million acres of National Forest System land, including almost 2 million acres in New Mexico.

The final step in this process is the proposed New Mexico RARE II legislation. We feel this is a well-balanced bill, which equitably addresses the various issues and interests involved, and Governor King endorses the proposed legislation as currently drafted.

However, the Governor's continued support will be based upon the following factors:

First, that no additional areas for wilderness or further planning are added to the present version, and that no additional acreage is added to the proposed wilderness designations except where minor boundary adjustments are needed to protect wilderness values or to facilitate management considerations.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, there are 794,744 acres of existing wilderness on Forest Service lands in New Mexico. The passage of S. 2583 and H.R. 3928 will add approximately 566,643 acres, bringing the total to 1,361,387 acres. Thus, 14.7 percent of all Forest Service lands in New Mexico would be classified as wilderness.

Furthermore, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administer 56,712 and 39,350 acres of wilderness respectively in New Mexico, and the Bureau of Land Management has proposed that approximately 1,000,000 acres be designated as wilderness study areas.

Second, that the "release" language is retained in the legislation.

Governor King is very supportive of the approach you have taken on this issue, both as to the status of current recommendations and as to the consideration of future recommendations. This will be of great assistance to the Forest Service, various State agencies, and individual citizens as we plan the use and development of our resources.

Third, that allowances will be made for minor boundary adjustments to protect certain range improvements and structures, and to allow continued access to private and State lands.

Several examples of the above have been brought to the attention of the Governor's staff, and he is confident you will give these requests due consideration during the hearings process.

In addition, Governor King strongly recommends that the report accompanying the bill has language on grazing in wilderness similar to that in House Report 96-617, which accompanies the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1979. This language clarifies the intent of Congress as to what grazing management practices can occur in wilderness areas.

Since current Forest Service regulations are very restrictive, and interpretation varies from region to region, it is important that this issue be finally resolved. Further clarification is also needed as to what mangement practices can occur on behalf of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of Governor King and the State of New Mexico. The Governor compliments the entire New Mexico Congressional Delegation for the diligent work they have done in this area, and for drafting balanced legislation which is in the best interest of the state.

If you have any questions concerning this testimony, or desire any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Governor King at any time.

Thank you.

Senator **Bumpers**. Ms. Sears, will you stay in case we have questions of either or both of you, or do you have a plane to catch?

Ms. **Sears**. No.

Senator **Bumpers**. Mr. Leisz.

STATEMENT OF DOUGLAS R. LEISZ, ASSOCIATE CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. **Leisz**. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear before the committee with comments from the administration on the proposed bills. With your approval, I request that my entire statement be included in the record.

Senator **Bumpers**. It has been admitted.*

Mr. **Leisz**. As you have requested, I will summarize our comments in the New Mexico areas only.

We commend the chairman for the prompt consideration of these wilderness proposals. We are anxious to work with the committee on these and other wilderness recommendations.

The administration's wilderness recommendations for New Mexico include 10 new wildernesses and additions to 4 wildernesses for a 813,760-acre increase in New Mexico wilderness. S. 2583 includes 11 of the administration's 14 recommendations.

It would establish seven new wildernesses totaling approximately 307,000 acres and add approximately 253,000 acres to four existing National Forest wildernesses for a total of 560,000 acres.

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* See p. 32.

This proposal makes significant additions to four existing wildernesses and includes areas with outstanding scenery. The new wilderness proposals expand the opportunities for a wilderness experience in many New Mexico areas.

Three proposals included in S. 2583 are identical to the administration's recommendations. They include the proposed Capitan Mountain Wilderness, 36,400 acres of rugged mountains rising abruptly from the surrounding grasslands, on the Lincoln National Forest.

The most spectacular features of the mountains are the numerous rock glaciers which "flow" downward from the crest. A second proposal is the Dome Wilderness, a 5,200-acre area located adjacent to the Bandelier National Monument Wilderness, that contains an unusual variety of vegetation, wildlife, and cultural resources.

Eagles and other raptors are found in the area, and bat colonies are scattered throughout the area's caves. The area also contains tent rocks, lava escarpments, Indian ruins, and petroglyphs.

The third area is the 19,000-acre Withinton Wilderness proposal located in a steep and rugged portion of the San Mateo Mountains. This area of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, black bear, elk, cougar, and turkey. We are pleased to see these proposals included in S. 2583.

Three of the administration's recommendations were completely omitted from S. 2583; Canadian River, Apache Kid, and Lower Frisco. The proposed Canadian River Wilderness is a 3,460-acre area in the Canadian River Canyon on the Kiowa National Grasslands in northeast New Mexico. The area is the Southwest's only representation of the prairie-grassland ecosystem and contains two exotic wildlife species not native to the area—Siberian ibex and Barbary sheep.

The proposed Apache Kid Wilderness is a 133,000-acre area in the steep, rugged, and rocky terrain in the San Mateo Mountains. A major portion of the area includes pinyon-juniper woodland, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer forest. Black bear, cougar, elk, antelope, and mule deer are the major wildlife species.

We recognize there are numerous range improvements in the eastern part of the area and we believe the majority of these improvements can continue under the provisions of the Wilderness Act. We urge your serious consideration of this important proposal which has significant wilderness and wildlife values.

The proposed Lower Frisco Wilderness is a 8,800-acre area on the New Mexico-Arizona State line that consists of the San Francisco River and its steep-sided river canyon. The area provides habitat for bighorn sheep, mule deer, whitetail deer, mountain lion, golden eagle, and variety of waterfowl and birds.

The area also receives winter use by bald eagles and peregrine falcons. The canyon has been used extensively by early man.

Some Indian ruins and cliff dwellings are included within this proposal. S. 2583 proposes a further study designation for approximately 26,000 acres in the San Francisco River area.

The entire 26,000-acre area was evaluated during the Roadless Area Review and Evaluations—RARE II—and only 8,800 acres were recommended for wilderness because of the strong opposition by local elected officials and agencies, potential reductions in timber harvest of approximately 3 million board feet and possible reductions in grazing. We urge adoption of our 8,800-acre wilderness proposal as a reasonable compromise.

We do not believe additional study will result in any new or additional information not considered in the RARE II decision.

We urge that all three of these wilderness recommendations be considered for wilderness designation.

There are eight areas where the acreage proposed in S. 2583 differs from the administration's proposal. There are substantial differences in the majority of these areas. With the use of projected transparencies in some cases, I will briefly discuss these differences for each area, beginning with the new wilderness proposals.

GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT

This 21,000-acre wilderness proposal is located adjacent to Carlsbad Caverns National Park Wilderness and contains some of the wildest and most spectacular country remaining undeveloped in New Mexico. Portions of the Capitan Barrier Reef, perhaps the best exposed and most significant fossil reef in the world is located in the area.

S. 2583 includes 18,000 acres of the administration's wilderness proposal but deletes approximately 3,000 acres at the western end of the proposal. We urge adoption of the President's recommendation for a 21,000-acre wilderness, which would mean that this 3,000-area portion in North McKittrick Canyon would be designated wilderness. This provides for a continuous wilderness from the Carlsbad Caverns National Park Wilderness to the Guadalupe National Park Wilderness in Texas.

LATIR PEAK

This high elevation wilderness proposal lies along the top of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range in northern New Mexico and represents subalpine ecosystems.

The proposal in S. 2583 eliminates approximately 9,000 acres of highly scenic area from the eastern portion of the administration's 24,600-acre proposal and results in a boundary difficult to manage. We continued to urge adoption of our initial proposal.

ALDO LEOPOLD

The current administration proposal is to add the 34,480-acre RARE II area—A3162—and 28,846 acres of the previously excluded Primitive Area to the 1971 recommendation for a 251,421-acre Aldo Leopold Wilderness.

Rising from hot, dry desert and semidesert, the Black Range stands as a prominent land feature from nearly all directions. The deep canyons and timbered ridges create a superlative natural setting.

We urge adoption of the administration's recommendation and careful consideration of the 73,000 acres not included in the 178,000-acre proposal in S. 2583. The area excluded has high wilderness values.

BLUE RANGE

The administration's proposal Blue Range Wilderness straddles the Arizona-New Mexico State line and consists of several RARE II roadless areas and portions of the Blue Range Primitive Area. About 40,000 acres of the proposal are in New Mexico.

The eastern end of the Mogollon Rim is within this rugged mountainous area. The Rim was glamorized by Zane Grey as the "Tonto Rim" in his famous novels.

The proposed wilderness offers outstanding scenery, broad expanse of coniferous forests, spectacular rock formations and ecological zones from semidesert to high mountain conditions. The natural beauty, the wildlife, the prehistoric Indian ruins, and the remoteness blend together in the "Tonto Rim" to offer a unique wilderness experience to the visitor.

S. 2583 includes approximately 35,000 acres of the administration's recommendation. It excludes approximately 5,000 acres along the eastern and southern boundary of the proposal which we believe are essential for a well defined and manageable wilderness boundary. We urge adoption of the President's 40,000 acre wilderness recommendation.

WHITE MOUNTAINS

This 19,600-acre area is composed of five tracts, all of which are adjacent to the existing White Mountain Wilderness. These additions improve the boundaries of the wilderness and include the headwater of both Eagle and Bonito Creeks, which are major streams in this portion of New Mexico.

S. 2583 proposes identical additions with the exception of two small parcels totaling approximately 500 acres. We do not object strongly to these minor boundary adjustments.

PECOS

The administration's proposed additions to the Pecos Wilderness totaling 71,000 acres include steep, rugged high elevation subalpine tundra, and mixed coniferous forests. It includes numerous small streams and high elevation peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of north central New Mexico.

S. 2583 includes 70,000 acres, essentially all of the administration's recommendation for this area. The Senate bill deletes one small area on the eastern edge of the proposal. We estimate the acreage to be less than 1,000 acres, and we have no strong objection to this boundary adjustment.

WHEELER PEAK

This 14,700-acre addition to the Wheeler Peak Wilderness more than doubles the size of the existing wilderness and includes some outstanding habitat for the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep that were reintroduced just outside the wilderness in 1968.

S. 2583 includes the addition on the west side of the existing wilderness which totals 9,100 acres. Approximately 5,600 acres have been omitted on the eastern side of the wilderness. We urge adoption of our 14,700-acre recommendation.

GILA

The administration's proposal is to add approximately 50,000 of the Gila Primitive Area and 600 acres of roadless area A3156 to the 1974 proposal for a recommended addition to the Gila Wilderness of 166,000 acres. This action would create a 595,000-acre Gila Wilderness.

The proposed additions offers much true wilderness terrain. This is some of the area recommended by Leopold for wilderness. The variety of vegetation, climatic conditions, and topography offers a challenge for visitors. The area contains unique volcanic rock escarpments, pinnacles, and spires along major drainages, and the largest stand of virgin ponderosa pine in the world.

S. 2583 proposes 155,000 acres be added to the Gila Wilderness. It deletes an 11,000 acre area on the southeast side of the wilderness. We continue to urge this area be made part of the wilderness.

I would like to conclude my comments with some remarks on release language. Section 5 of S. 2583 would direct that any lands studied as part of RARE II and not designated as wilderness or further planning by this act would be available for uses other than wilderness. It further precludes the Secretary from making any additional wilderness recommendations in New Mexico for a 10-year period and then those recommendations would expire with the adjournment of the Congress during which such recommendations were made.

Section 5(d) would ratify the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement with respect to the National Forest System lands in New Mexico.

We strongly object to all forms of so-called release language. We object to the provision of section 5 that would immediately release all areas not designated as wilderness or further planning by this act.

With regard to the nonwilderness areas, such language is unnecessary because these areas are available now for nonwilderness activities. This section would result in all further planning area, except the 26,000 acre San Francisco area, being managed for uses other than wilderness.

We believe these further planning areas are worthy of additional consideration for possible wilderness designation. Consequently we object to the provision prohibiting the Secretary from making any additional wilderness recommendation for a 10-year period.

Likewise, we believe it is undesirable to impose a deadline on congressional action for any future wilderness recommendations for New Mexico.

We also believe the statement in section 5(d) regarding the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement with regard to National Forest System lands in New Mexico is unnecessary.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my statement. I would be happy to respond to your questions.

Senator DOMENICI [presiding]. Let me first thank you for your testimony and all of the Forest Service for the hard work they have done in this whole long process. Rather than talk about the areas, let me ask you for a little bit more explanation of your opposition to release language generally, for a moment, and then perhaps specifically.

About your statement that there is not even a need to state that RARE II is sufficient as has complied with environmental impact requirements. How does that square with the case of the *State of California* v. *Bergland* where even if you thought it was sufficient, someone else didn't, the court agreed, and consequently the process hasn't ended?

We have here today an argument about areas you recommend inclusion in, some of which aren't, but you also have almost a million acres that you didn't recommend at all.

Now, California has that, but in much bigger numbers. How does your statement that nothing is needed square with the fact that California is not yet finished, even though they are finished—because a court has now found that even the release acreage is not release. How does it square with Mr. Cutler's statements, which indicated clearly that he thought some language of release and sufficiency were required?

Mr. LEISZ. Let me respond to those, if I may.

In the case of the California law suit, we have appealed that decision and we feel that the decision there was in error, and we want to proceed to contest that through the appellate court process.

That does present us a problem in time in California, because of the time it will take to go through the appeal process. We still believe that the RARE II process was adequate, and right now only for those 46 areas in California contested by the State, are we prohibited from going ahead with the nonwilderness activities. There are other nonwilderness areas in California which we are proceeding to carry out activities, so we are not stopped entirely on activities in California.

Senator DOMENICI. Let me just say this to you.

I think release language is obviously subject to debate. I think there is a proposal which doesn't only go 10 years in duration, but merely says when we are finished with this we are finished, all the way to a proposal such as the one before us here.

But I can't understand why the administration would resist language which once and for all would say, the process is sufficient. Forget whether you want release language. Do you really want the courts to continue to be involved in deciding all these issues? I mean, your answer says you are appealing California. How long will that take?

Their system is very slow and there is more than one appeal. That could be a couple of years. Why won't every state that has a confrontation model itself after this?

We have gotten ourselves in these kinds of dilemmas because you can't manage. We are reluctant to legislate so we have the courts around deciding issues that take forever. We thought our proposal was to conclude something.

Mr. LEISZ. We understand that. The second part of the question was how does this square up with Assistant Secretary Cutler's statement at an earlier time that he felt that release language was necessary.

We had many discussions within the administration on the need for release language on sufficiency language for the environmental statement. Much of that was during the same time as the discussions on whether we should appeal the California law suit or not.

When we reached a decision to go ahead and appeal, then it was a final decision of the administration that release language was not necessary, and at the time Dr. Cutler testified, we were in a period of transition. It was after that time that the administration did take a final position that release language was not necessary for the RARE II areas.

Senator **Domenici**. Let me just put it this way. He did so testify, and if I understand your testimony, he has been overruled within the administration and the basis for his being overruled is that you think the lower court in California is wrong, so you are going to appeal the decision. Is that a good summary of what has happened?

Mr. **Leisz**. Yes, sir.

Senator **Schmitt**. Would the Senator yield on this point?

Senator **Domenici**. Yes.

Senator **Schmitt**. I don't think we yet got a clear answer to Senator Domenici's first question, and that is why in the world don't you want us to just clear this thing up?

Why do you want to continue to fight these things in the courts and allow the courts to decide what is the law, in quotes?

Mr. **Leisz**. That is not a particularly attractive option for us. We would like to have RARE II recommendations come to a close as promptly as possible, and we have urged that——

Senator **Schmitt**. But your whole testimony contradicts that statement. You don't want us to contradict the Secretary's ability—you want everything left in the pot.

Mr. **Leisz**. No. We want everything to be left to be determined in the planning process which gives us an opportunity to consider all the resource values in reaching a final decision.

We admit at the same time that there are different ideas on how to approach and reach conclusions on these areas. We are trying to bring forth the ideas that the administration has advanced and we have made our position, I think, fairly clear on what we think the best route is. We certainly would understand that there could be other views from the Congress, and we will certainly respond and work with those.

I think clearly that there are some differences, even among those of us in the administration on how best to proceed with this. But we did reach a decision and we are pursuing that course.

Senator **Schmitt**. Can we expect another final position in the near future different than the final position we have now?

Mr. **Leisz**. No, sir. This is it.

Senator **Schmitt**. We have heard that before, too, on other issues, as well as this. Senator, I won't use any more of you time.

But I just fail to understand the logic of not wanting to have this thing begin to be cleared up in some systematic way. The New Mexico delegation proposal is not an extreme proposal. It provides periodic opportunity to reevalvate. The land still stays under Forest Service management for multiple use, but it can be managed with a great deal of discretion.

I don't see the logic in the administration's position, particularly in the face of the court's actions as they have been clearly demonstrated in California and can occur in anyplace at any time.

Mr. Leisz. I can understand how there could be a different viewpoint on this, Senator.

Senator Domenici. Let me just ask one more question and then, Senator Schmitt, I will yield to you for anything you have to ask.

You do agree, do you not, that it is quite clear in the statutes that while there is broad management authority, the creation, that is the establishment of a wilderness, is very specifically a congressional initiative and a congressional responsibility, do you now?

Mr. Leisz. Yes, sir. We do. That is why we pursued this as recommended areas for wilderness to the Congress.

Senator Domenici. I guess what kind of disturbs me is, we have had a 1972 study that was aborted by a court decision. We have had this last RARE II study, and we have the delegation from New Mexico saying we are going to do our best to take that statute, which gives us a role, and we are going to attempt to do the best we can and we are going to legislate wilderness.

Now, if that is the way things are supposed to happen, why would you want to leave large areas for a long period of time as de facto wilderness, managed with some future notion that we might do something. Rather than say, Congress acted, and if they want to act again, they can act again. One of the real problems we are having with public domain, is that when we don't act, we leave it up to all kinds of uncertainties. And then when we decide we are going to act, some people say, yes, that is our prerogative, you are right, but even if you act, we are going to have thousands of acres that we are going to have as wilderness because we are going to de facto manage them for some future date when Congress acts.

Isn't that what we are doing by letting this open ended situation, that you are recommending, continue?

Mr. Leisz. Well, we don't think so. The areas that we had identified for further planning would be handled in the land management planning process, which we have targeted for completion at the outside by 1985, but we have most of the areas targeted for completion by the end of 1983. At that time we would reach a conclusion on those areas that are left in further planning as to whether they should be recommended for wilderness or what portions should go to nonwilderness uses.

It was our determination that in the RARE II process, there were some areas that we simply did not have all the information we felt necessary to reach a conclusion as to whether they should be recommended for wilderness or for nonwilderness, so we put those in further planning, and we do recognize the need as you said it to reach a conclusion on those as expeditiously as possible, and we intended to do that.

The other part of RARE II is that we brought our wilderness recommendations through the field process to the administration and to the Congress, with the full understanding that the congressional prerogative was there to reach a determination as they see it in final form, and we will respond very positively to that in the final action.

Senator **Domenici**. Senator Schmitt, I had a statement from Congressman Lujan that I would like to put in the record. We will do that now. And I thank him for the statement.

[The prepared statement of Congressman Lujan follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. MANUEL LUJAN, JR., A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Mr. Chairman; I would like to take this opportunity to comment on S. 2583, the wilderness proposal of the New Mexico Congressional delegation.

I believe that this bill provides all of us with an opportunity to present views on the issue of wilderness for the State of New Mexico. It is a good basis for discussion of this issue and as a proposal represents what we hope will be a good balance of the interests involved.

As you know, there are competing concerns being presented, including timbering, grazing, mining and environmental interests. In our effort to arrive at a valid proposal, we looked carefully at each of the areas recommended by the Forest Service as a result of the RARE II process and made every effort to include within the boundaries we drew those areas that we believe meet wilderness criteria. Areas that were excluded were deleted for specific reasons, but I would like to point out that we do not consider this proposal to be perfect. One of the major reasons I support this hearing is that it provides us with an opportunity to hear the views of others involved. When it is concluded we can then review all of the testimony presented, and on the basis of that and the information we have already received, we can draft a bill that I hope will satisfy most groups.

New Mexico is a state rich with beauty and we have the opportunity to preserve much of it. Wilderness cannot be bought, sold, or restored; its value is in its originality which once destroyed existed no more. We must ensure that the treasures of our past are the keepsakes of our future.

Thank you.

Senator **Domenici**. Do you have any questions?

Senator **Schmitt**. Yes. What was the Forest Service's original total recommendation in acreage to the administration?

Mr. **Leisz**. I think I had——

Senator **Schmitt**. I should have that number, but can't quite pull it out.

Mr. **Leisz**. 813,000 acres.

Senator **Schmitt**. That is the administration's recommendation. The Forest Service recommended some other number. I think it is close to 500,000, but I don't know the exact number. Yes. What came out of the New Mexico and Forest Service review, internal agency review before the White House sent its recommendations to the Congress.

Mr. **Leisz**. I don't have that figure.

Senator **Schmitt**. If we could get that for the record——

Mr. **Leisz**. I have it here. The allocation reflecting the adminstration changes to the RARE II final environmental statement are as follows: For wilderness in New Mexico there was 505,100 acres. Further planning, 255,700 acres. And nonwilderness, 1,146,600 acres.

Senator **Schmitt**. OK. Now, in the Forest Service's own examination of these issues, there was a great deal of effort expended, I am aware, and you solicited comments from a wide variety of groups. There may have been some tendency to count the number of responses you got on one side or the other, but I can understand why you might do that in making some of the decisions.

Is it your impression that in the process that raised 505,000 to 814,000, similar diligent effort was taken to make those decisions?

Mr. **Leisz**. There was careful consideration, and some of the factors that got involved in bringing that to the national level were to look at the offsets, the trade-offs, nationwide and the needs nationwide.

In other words, we looked at New Mexico in the total of the United States in looking at wilderness and nonwilderness resource needs.

Senator **Schmitt**. Has that process ever been documented in any way?

For example, I don't believe the Forest Service recommended that the lower Frisco could be included, or even included in purchase planning, if I remember correctly. However, the White House recommendations were to include it as wilderness.

What is the basis for a decision of that nature?

Mr. **Leisz**. There was discussion both at the departmental level and then among the various agencies that were brought into the review process. A number of Federal agencies were brought in in the final review and determination of the resource impacts and the allocations, and then there was a decision actually reached in the White House as to the final determination.

Senator **Schmitt**. Do you know if that White House decision on the lower Frisco related to some national considerations of which the Forest Service was unaware or unable to make?

Mr. **Leisz**. I do not know that specifically. I can find that out for the record for you.

Senator **Schmitt**. I hope you will. We have been trying to get information of that kind, and to my knowledge, have never received it.

Senator **Domenici**. Will you get us something in writing that answers our question?

Mr. **Leisz**. At your request, certainly.

Senator **Domenici**. We request it and will make it part of the record.

Senator **Schmitt**. Not only for the lower Frisco, but for other changes to the forest original recommendations. Obviously, the Forest Service went through a great deal of effort to come up with a set of recommendations to move up to a higher level.

It would be good for us not to have to duplicate all of that effort, which would be difficult for us to do because of staff limitations.

Mr. **Leisz**. We will be glad to provide that information.

[The requested information follows:]

The Department of Agriculture RARE II Final Environmental Statement shows the allocation of roadless areas as follows:

Allocation*	Acres (net)	Areas
Wilderness	497,265	17
Further planning	256,850	15
Nonwilderness	1,153,349	69

The President added the existing Primitive Area acreage to the wilderness total. The primitive Areas had been previously endorsed by the Administration for wilderness but no legislative action had occurred. The Primitive Areas included the following:

	Acr
Blue Range	13,488
Aldo Leopold	188,095
Gila addition	115,608
Total	317,191

The President changed the Lower San Francisco area (number 03139) previously allocated to nonwilderness in the Final Environmental Statement to 8,800 acres of wilderness in the core area and 11,500 acres of further planning. The President also changed the 12,650-cre Guadalupe (03004) area from further planning to nonwilderness.

The Guadalupe area was changed to nonwilderness because of its relatively low wilderness attributes and high strategic mineral values. The Lower San Francisco was changed from nonwilderness because of the high wilderness values in the core area and its outstanding wildlife habitat.

The Administration's final recommendations (with minor "fine tuning" corrections) are as follows:

Allocation.	Net acres
Wilderness RARE II	498,210
Primitive area	317,191
Total	815,401
Further planning	255,940
Nonwilderness	1,143,579
Total	2,214,920

Senator SCHMITT. One final question.

There has been a great deal of discussion about grazing and I think that issue is fairly well understood. Was the Forest Service significantly concerned about the overall national balance of strategic mineral resources and oil and gas potential resources in the RARE II process?

Mr. LEISZ. Yes, we were and we did everything we could in an attempt to get the information together to indicate where mineral values and where oil and gas potentials might be and to consider those in the final determinations. We did that in working with state agencies and with the USGS and with private companies, wherever they had information they were willing to share with us.

Senator SCHMITT. Was the specific dependence of the United States on foreign imports of a particular commodity included in that evaluation?

Mr. LEISZ. Not as a specific item, but we had—we were fully aware of the need for both exploration and development of strategic mineral resources.

Senator SCHMITT. Well, let's take, for example, say the USGS indicated that there was a significant potential for some metal like cobalt, for example, and being an interesting cobalt silverous paragenesis near my hometown, it is possible some of the interests in areas in that county might have a cobalt potential and we import almost all of our cobalt.

Was that taken into account in the Forest Service's recommendation?

Mr. LEISZ. Yes, sir.

Senator SCHMITT. I am talking about a specific question of strategic vulnerability.

Mr. LEISZ. My recollection is we did identify some of those. I would like to confirm or adjust that for the record, if I may.

Senator Schmitt. If you would—if the strategic vulnerability was included as well as what the mineral potential may have been, but also if you can find information relative to the earlier question that I asked and that you are supplying information for the record about, if in the additions of wilderness to the original Forest Service recommendations, if that issue was considered.

Mr. Leisz. We will be glad to do that.

[The requested information follows:]

Minerals consideration in RARE II.—One of the 10 steps used in developing the proposed action insured adverse impacts of commodity losses were reduced and displacement of dependent communities avoided. The initial phase of this step was to move areas from the wilderness category, if they had proven, producing, or high potential hardrock mineral values, oil, gas, or other energy resources, to the further planning category. The basis for this determination was a rating of 81 to 99 for just one of the mineral values or energy resources, or 70 or higher in two or more except for bulk materials. Any area with a rating of 100, other than for low value bulk minerals, was placed in the nonwilderness category. Development of these ratings is discussed below.

Rating criteria were used to evaluate mineral and energy potential of the roadless areas. Forest Service geologists and mining engineers, after evaluating mineral data obtained from Department of Energy, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, comparable State sources, and from industry, developed a Mineral Potential Numerical Rating System for each of six commodity categories. The six categories are: (1) Hardrock minerals or those non-energy minerals that are a part of USGS/Bureau of Mines minerals of compelling domestic significance list, (2) oil and gas, (3) uranium, (4) coal, (5) geothermal resources, and (6) low value bulk materials such as sand, gravel, rock, etc. A numerical rating for any one or all of the commodity categories was assigned to each inventoried roadless area. Ratings have been entered into the data base for each roadless area at the Regional level and were used to assist with development and evaluation of the proposed action.

Numerical ratings assigned to any one mineral or energy group range from 0-100. A rating of 100 is assigned to areas containing a producing mine or well; an oil, gas, or geothermal well capable of production; or a mineral deposit where production is imminent. A rating of 81-99 indicates areas of high potential; 41-80 moderate potential; and below 41 indicates low potential. Ratings preceded by a negative indicate areas where there is insufficient data currently available to rate the area.

The criteria described above were used in development of alternative approaches displayed in the environmental statement.

Minerals and energy.—Mineral deposits, including potential energy sources, underlie many National Forests and Grasslands. Control of Federal mineral resources is vested in Department of the Interior agencies, but surface management is the responsibility of the Forest Service. The United States owns only the surface rights on a considerable portion of the National Forest System.

All public domain land, other than that withdrawn from entry for protection of specific purposes, is open to prospecting and development of mineral resources. Use of most western National Forest System lands for exploration, development, and production of minerals locatable under the 1872 mining laws is covered by regulations contained in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 252, August 28, 1974.

Potential energy sources exist within the National Forest System but their precise location, quantity, and quality are, for the most part, yet to be determined. The single most promising area for oil and gas potential in the lower 48 States is the Overthrust Belt. This area extends from Nevada through northeastern Utah through western Wyoming and west central Montana into Canada. The Department of Energy estimates the belt may contain more than 8 million acres of land with a substantial portion of the area located within National Forests. It has identified 588 roadless areas or parts of areas as very important or important for energy resource potential.

Forest Service ratings of mineral and energy resources identified 48 areas with producing mines, 13 areas with producing oil and/or gas wells, two areas with producing uranium mines, one geothermal source capable of production, and nine producing coal mines. High potential ratings were given to 602 roadless areas with high hardrock mineral potential, 303 areas have high potential for oil and gas, 156 areas have high uranium potential, 28 have high geothermal potential and 56 have high potential for coal. Remaining roadless areas have a moderate or low potential for mineral and energy resources.

Senator SCHMITT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you both for your testimony.

As you can see, we feel like we are in closer communications with the Governor than we have been with the administration on this.

Mr. LEISZ. In clarifying a point, as we indicated, the 505,000 acres recommended by the Forest Service of RARE II areas as wilderness seems to be parted by 300,000 acres from the administration's final determination. This difference is essentially the areas that were in primitive area status that are included with the RARE II wilderness recommendations. So actually the discrepancy in the final allocations is really not that significant, because those were the primitive areas that were actually added to the RARE II recommendations.

Senator SCHMITT. Well, we would still like to have the detailed discussion of each change that may have been made and the reason for it.

Mr. LEISZ. We will supply that.

Senator DOMENICI. We were intending to close this record within 10 days. Is that too short a time for you to get the written information that we just asked you for?

Mr. LEISZ. We will try to do that, and if we cannot do that, we will let you know right away. I think we should be able to.

Senator DOMENICI. Why don't you consider that our outside limit is 2 weeks and why don't we just agree on that now and you do the best you can. If you really run into a snag, we would appreciate all you can get and then some kind of a report that what you didn't get would be here at a certain time.

Thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. LEISZ. We will do that.

[The requested material was not received to be incorporated into the printed record.]

Senator DOMENICI. The next witnesses are going to come up as a panel: Jim Stewart, Rio Grande Sierra Club, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Dave Foreman, southwest representative for the Wilderness Society; Lebron Hardie, El Paso Preservation Committee; George Grossman, New Mexico Wilderness Society, Santa Fe; and Dorothy Hoard, Audubon Society, Los Alamos.

STATEMENT OF JIM STEWART, RIO GRANDE SIERRA CLUB, ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Chairman, Dorothy Hoard will not be here. There will just be four of us.

Senator DOMENICI. Did she have written testimony here?

Mr. STEWART. Unfortunately, no. Because of the time, we didn't have the opportunity to get it from her.

Senator DOMENICI. Do you think she would like to submit that for the record?

Mr. STEWART. I believe she would.

Senator DOMENICI. We will leave it open for 10 days. If you will send it to the committee, we will make the delegation copies and have it for the record.

How do you want to proceed?

Do each of you have a statement?

Senator **Schmitt**. Mr. Chairman, I am sure that to the degree they wish to summarize, that will be acceptable to the committee and your full statements will be included in the record.

Mr. **Stewart**. My name is Jim Stewart. I am chairman of the Rio Grande chapter of the Sierra Club. I am a general contractor in Albuquerque, N. Mex.

I endorse for the Sierra Club the testimony of the other three members of this panel. We will try not to duplicate what we say.

In general, we are opposed to the release language in the bill and we believe that the areas included in the bill are of acreages much too small. If I may comment briefly on the question earlier, I think we view the Forest Service's proposal of 500-some thousand acres as an addition to the already administratively endorsed primitive areas that have been protected as primitive areas since the original Wilderness Act in 1964, and thus adding that 500-some thousand acres or 333,000 acres of existing primitive areas would come out to 800-plus thousand acres that the administration recommended.

I know we will hear a lot today about commodity interests and economics. Let me say that I think I have some understanding of that, being in business for myself.

I find, though, that in the end we have got to leave something that we do not develop and that we can leave open and wild for my children and my grandchildren. I don't believe that the commodity availabilities on these lands are really all that great or I think we would have been there already.

They already would have been logged or mined. I wonder if in the 15 some years since the enactment of the Wilderness Act there is great mineral potential on these lands, given the leadtime that was evidence to all concerned, why intensive exploration has not gone on so that we could have definitive answers as to the amount of mineral potential rather than simply a statement that there may be minerals existing on these lands.

An interesting comparison is to look at the amount of land that we talk about when we are looking at wilderness recommendations. In New Mexico right now, considering not just the Forest Service lands, but all Federal lands, we have approximately 1.1 percent of all of New Mexico as declared wilderness.

The State of Florida has 3.6 percent of its total acreage declared wilderness, and interestingly, they raise about twice as many cattle as the State of New Mexico. The State of Minnesota has almost 2 percent of its acreage in wilderness today.

If we were to add the total recommendation of the Sierra Club and the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee of another 1.8 million acres, that would bring the total in New Mexico to approximately 3.5 percent of our land area, and anticipating a question, if we added—and we certainly wouldn't expect to—all the acreage that the BLM has set aside for study areas, we would come up with a total of 5 percent.

It seems to me that even that 5 percent is an insignificant number in a State such as New Mexico with vast open areas, low economic potential on most of these lands and a great potential for recreation and preservation of our wild heritage.

Our consideration in our testimony here today, I think, is going to be greatly colored by the fact that we have not had the opportunity to examine in detail your proposals. We have not had detailed maps available to us to examine the boundaries and the suggestions made by you. So we must speak in rather general terms.

At some point, Senator Schmitt asked about counting numbers and how many people favored or opposed wilderness designations. During the RARE II process, quite frankly, the conservation community in New Mexico concentrated on quality site specific input in an attempt to assist the Forest Service in a substantial way to gather information to make their recommendations.

At no time was there any kind of an organized petition or letter writing campaign simply to get out the vote. But we thought it might be interesting to see how many votes we could get in favor of wilderness, so in February and March of 1969, I worked on a petition campaign in New Mexico which garnered almost 8,500 signatures on a petition which said we want Congress to protect more wilderness in New Mexico.

Last spring I know that Bob Langston Camp of Silver City showed that petition to Senator Domenici, Senator Schmitt and Representative Lujan. Even though time has been short to prepare for this hearing, once again I thought it would be interesting to see what kind of numbers could be generated.

I know that conservationists in Las Cruce have mailed over a thousand postcards to Representative Runnels expressing their dismay at the small acreages involved in the bill.

Milo Conrad in Albuquerque coordinated a campaign to get 600 letters mailed to your office, the address on the original letter. I have with me today a petition with about 1,200 signatures on it, and I will just read it to you briefly. It is addressed to four members of our delegation.

It says we, the undersigned, opposed the New Mexico antiwilderness bill recently proposed by the New Mexico congressional delegation. The bill is unacceptable to us for the following reasons: It would stop wilderness consideration—there are a few copies here with the wrong figure—243,000 acres of New Mexico national forest wild lands recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service in RARE II. It would stop wilderness consideration for 246,000 acres of New Mexico national forest wild lands recommended by the Forest Service for further planning.

Wilderness acreages for the 11 areas included in the bill are inadequate. We respectfully urge you not to hold hearings on this proposed legislation and to see that it does not receive consideration in Congress.

If I may, I will hand these to whoever is appropriate.

Senator **Domenici**. We won't make them part of the written record. We will make them part of the file.

Mr. **Stewart**. I have some other inputs here which say essentially the same thing, and let me present those to you. And I do have a few personal letters from people who asked me to present them to you, and I have attached to my testimony a couple of those which I would appreciate if you could enter into the record, there are two letters that are attached to my testimony that were given to me by people in New Mexico.

Let me say a few words about grazing. It is a funny situation, because every time I sit down at a table with a rancher or across the table from the bureaucracy, I find that frequently I say the same thing as the rancher, perhaps in a different perspective. Conservationists in New Mexico understand the problems that have arisen in regards to grazing.

We have said time and again that we are more than happy to assist in any way we can on individual cases, to deal with specific issues, and attempt to come to a reasonable compromise.

I think that if one were to check the record, you would not find a case where a conservationist had gone to the Forest Service and said that your grazing management of wilderness lands is too sided toward the rancher.

I think you would find a number of places where conservationists have gone to the Forest Service and said, hey, wait a minute, why don't you give this guy a break, we don't believe that the act should be interpreted too literally.

We have read the committee report from the House under 96-617 which was referred to earlier and are encouraged that perhaps this will open up the situation and give us a better opportunity to come to an amicable agreement with the ranching interests. I have a copy of the letter from the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler to Representative Seiberling, which says in a sense that the Forest Service will be instructed to follow the guidelines in the committee report from the House.

That letter is attached to my testimony, also. Briefly, let me mention our thoughts on specific areas in the National Forest. The Withington Wilderness, which is included in the bill, has an acreage that coincides very closely with our proposal and that is one area that we are pleased to see that you have put in the bill.

The Withington Wilderness, as you have proposed it, is satisfactory. The fact that the Apache Kid area is not included in the bill is dismaying to the conservation community in New Mexico.

It has been a popular area for years, an area of major study for over 10 years by New Mexico conservationists. We have been around the area a number of times. The boundary that we have proposed has been as well researched as perhaps any boundary in any area of New Mexico.

In fact, the boundary we proposed is smaller than that of the administration because we felt that the administration included some trespass roads and improvements that should not be in there.

So the boundary proposal of the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Study Committee is significantly smaller than that of the Forest Service.

We urge you to reconsider the Apache Kid in its entirety. Another area of particular concern is the Banco Breaks on the plateau northeast of Mount Taylor. It is a rugged, desolate area, very remote. In fact, in terms of access, until a couple of years ago it was probably one of the most remote areas in New Mexico.

The area today provides a haven for deer and elk and other wildlife in the area as the area is exploited for its uranium resources. We are aware of the fact that the Banco Breaks or Guadalupe area has a high potential for uranium, but given the terrain and the topography, we believe that would be one of the last areas that anyone would want to exploit for those resources and given the high incidence of uranium in the surrounding areas, it seems that this one small area needs to be left to refuge for the wildlife in the area and is one small part of the land in that terrain that will not be exploited.

Other areas in our proposal not included in your bill were the Canadian River, Ryan Hill, Scott Mesa, Mount Taylor, San Jose, White Cap, Ranger Cabin, and Cerro Alesna.

We believe that all of these areas have significant wilderness potential and should receive further consideration. We are prepared at any time to sit down with members of Congress or your staff to look at these specific proposals, the boundaries that New Mexico conservationists have walked around and established, and discuss their potential inclusion in a wilderness bill.

That is all I have for now.

Senator Domenici. Let me just make two comments.

First, I think I speak for all of us, we certainly didn't intend to hold a hearing without you having an adequate opportunity to get prepared.

We have all been at this a long time. We had a first phase communication and a proposal, and that was communicated to everyone. The map was late because we couldn't get it prepared in time, but I think it went out.

Mr. Stewart. The only map that I have seen was sent by telecopier and most of them are unusable.

Senator Domenici. Nobody saw a final map?

Mr. Stewart. Not to my knowledge.

Senator Domenici. That relates to this?

Mr. Foreman. We have this.

Senator Domenici. That is the best we could reproduce by using the facilities we have here, and I think we were 10 or 15 days late. On the other hand, that was contemplating the 15th as the final date, and we just about added 15 to the end, so we thought maybe we had given everyone an opportunity.

On the grazing relationship that you have just described, I wonder if you are aware of the fact that Secretary Cutler, in his first answer to specific questions, indicated that the guidelines that are now being cited, which are not law would not be effective because they needed a law change. The change is needed in order to permit the use of vehicles and the continuation of structures that were there and have been used historically. In his first written answer he said we can't do these things without a law change.

Then at a later date he passes judgment on some guidelines. I guess what we are concerned about is if we have all arrived at the same conclusion, I think you might be saying we have, and I am not sure of that, then I wonder if you would not support the proposition that we ought to make it legal and permit the managers to clearly have that authority, rather than to have the ambiguity that exists now as to whether they can or can't.

Mr. Stewart. If you are asking me if we would support a legislative statement or a statement similar to the committee report language included in your legislation, I don't believe that we could.

When I first became involved in this, I read the Wilderness Act and it seemed to me that it left significant leeway as it was. Now I am not a lawyer, and I think that is both good and bad, but I do believe that I have some luck at interpreting the language. I am not trying to defend the administration. I can't. But I think that the leeway exists today in the Wilderness Act. Time and again we have expressed dismay that the administration doesn't follow the act.

Senator **Domenici**. You know, I don't want to be argumentative, because I think we are all trying to get to the same place. But there are those who make their living raising cattle, and you think that is a very small number of people, and I think you think they use too much land. Cattle raising, be it in Florida or Minnesota, has nothing to do with raising cattle in a State like ours. But I think you have arrived at the conclusion that we ought to be able to work something out.

If you have an interpretation that says the guideliness are not going to be upheld, why would you not support some specific language that gives the authority? And it is only giving authority; it is not saying you must. It is just saying here is a gray area, and the gray area is important to the person that is using it.

He has to get an answer. He can't go through court and wait forever. Why would you say he couldn't?

I don't quite understand.

Mr. **Stewart**. There are two answers to that. One is that I work with counsel as you do, and not being a lawyer, I can't delve into the legal reasons why not, but I think that we would like to see something set up to work on an individual basis with individual ranchers, and thus are reluctant to establish any across-the-board authority for things such as motor vehicles.

Senator **Domenici**. Well, it wouldn't be. They would have to decide it on a case-by-case basis. I know it is a departure from your main thrust, and I am not trying to be diversionary, but I see an opportunity to resolve longstanding difficulties and to make it much easier to include some areas in wilderness if we could clear up this issue.

There are those who say, yes, we have the right, but look how the right is taken away and it is just as if we didn't have it. Therefore, they oppose wilderness.

I think it is more of an issue than you might think, in terms of vagueness of language.

Mr. **Stewart**. We realize that, because it seems to me that our best friends in New Mexico ought to be ranchers and they are not.

Senator **Domenici**. I think that is correct. I appreciate your testimony. If after you have reviewed the maps or after anything you have heard today and you want to supplement, you have a couple of weeks to get us the information and it will certainly be considered.

Senator Schmitt.

Senator **Schmitt**. I want to add my thanks to you for coming in and giving us this information. I would encourage you to in the next 10 days or 2 weeks as we prepare for a markup, to provide us with any additional comments you may have on the specific areas included or excluded from our proposal.

I am sorry you feel that it is an antiwilderness bill, but that certainly is not the intent of the delegation to have an antiwilderness bill.

I can understand maybe why you would say that, but it clearly is not our intent. We are trying to balance competing interests and that is what the legislation process is.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Stewart follows:]

TESTIMONY OF JIM STEWART
CHAIRMAN OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB
ON S. 2583, A BILL TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST LANDS IN NEW MEXICO AS ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES, MAY 29, 1980

My name is Jim Stewart. I am chairman of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. I am a general contractor in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Sierra Club endorses the testimony of the other conservationists on this panel. We are opposed to release language in the bill and we believe that the areas included in the bill are too small, with the exception of Mount Withington.

It is my understanding that the basis for the bill under consideration was the Forest Service RARE II process completed in January of 1979. I would like to comment on that process.

The process was begun in June of 1977. From the beginning the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee and the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club have been actively involved. Once the areas to be considered were established we concentrated on gathering data and information from citizens who were knowledgeable about the areas. The areas were visited time and again by conservationists to determine the wilderness characteristics of each area and what boundaries would be appropriate should the area qualify.

Collectively we studied over eighty areas and over two million acres of New Mexico's National Forest Lands. A formidable task for all volunteer organizations. Some of the areas have been under study for over 10 years, and the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee and the Sierra Club have become a fund of knowledge of these forest lands unequalled in New Mexico. We recommended some 1.8 million acres in 54 acres as Conservationist's Alternative W, the Wilderness Alternative. We attempted to assist the Forest Service by gathering substantive, site specific input from knowledgeable people.

In the end the Forest Service recommended only 860,000 acres in 14 areas for wilderness designation using a process that we believe became seriously flawed.

The Forest Service lacked the manpower and finances to do the job adequately. As a result, they were unable to thoroughly survey each area in as much detail as should be required.

A major criterion in the decision making process was the public input. A massive petition campaign by interests opposing wilderness designation skewed the public "vote". This is significant because there was no major attempt by conservationists to get out the vote. Our input was primarily site-specific and substantive.

Creative use of the confusing statistics on public input gave the impression that the people of New Mexico overwhelmingly opposed wilderness. The oft-quoted statistic that New Mexicans opposed wilderness 6 to 1 in RARE II Comment was created by comparing draft EIS alternatives favoring wilderness for no RARE II lands. Few responsible parties on either side of the sisue viewed either alternative as viable, thus the bulk of comment fell somewhere between the two extremes. We encouraged our members to comment on specific areas.

In defending its decisions in the final RARE II EIS the Forest Service made frequent reference to public opinion. Frequently stating "strong local support for non-wilderness", the regional forester downgraded many areas to Further Planning or wilderness. However, when the tabulation of comments for specific areas are examined, I find that these statements are seldom borne out by the Forest Service's own figures.

A letter I wrote to the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler details specific problems with the RARE II process. (Letter attached).

I believe that we should use the data from the RARE II process sparingly and with caution considering the lack of real site specific detail gathered by the Forest Service and the misleading interpretations of public input.

As a footnote to the public input process: After the final RARE II EIS was distributed, I thought it would be interesting to see what kind of numbers conservationists could rally to their side in a numbers game. In February and March of 1979, I coordinated a petition campaign in New Mexico which garnered almost eight thousand five hundred signatures on a petition which said simply, "We want Congress to protect more wilderness in New Mexico." Bob Langsenkamp of Silver City brought the petition to Washington last spring and showed it to Senator Domenici, Senator Schmitt, and Representative Lujan.

Though time has been short, we have again tried to get out the "vote". I know that conservationists from Las Cruces have mailed over 1,000 postcards to Representative Runnels opposing the release language in this bill and asking for substantial changes in acreage. Milo Conrad in Albuquerque has gathered over 600 letters opposing the release language and asking for major changes in acreages. I have with me today a petition with over 1200 signatures which I would like to read.

I have also approximately 160 other form responses in general opposition to the bill as presently written. And I have several personal letters given to me by New Mexico citizens who asked that I read them to the Committee. (Letters attached).

GRAZING

Grazing has always been a major bone of contention when discussing wilderness in New Mexico. The Sierra Club is well aware of the problems that have arisen in the past due to restrictive management policies pursued by the Forest Service. Although the economic impact of ranching in New Mexico is small, employing 5.7% of New Mexico's working force, we believe that the impact of any federal management decision should be as beneficial as possible for all concerned. Thus, we have frequently shared the view of the ranchers of New Mexico that Forest Service management policies have been overly restrictive.

We are encouraged by language in House Committee Report No. 96-617 which attempts to clarify allowable activities in wilderness. I have a copy of a letter from Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler to Rep. John Seiberling, which states that the Forest Service will begin to follow the guidelines of the committee report. We believe that these guidelines should alleviate many of the complaints aired by ranchers in the past.

I would like to comment on specific areas in the Cibola National Forest in central New Mexico. We are pleased that the Withington Wilderness is included in the bill. The acreage in the bill coincides closely with our proposal, and pending detailed examination of the proposed boundary we believe we can support the Withington Wilderness as proposed.

We are particularly concerned that the Apache Kid area is not included in the bill. The area has been carefully studied by the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee over a period of ten years or more. The boundary proposed by the NMWSC and the Sierra Club has been carefully researched, checked and rechecked, to exclude intrusions which are usually inappropriate in a wilderness. In fact, our proposal is smaller than that of the Forest Service. During the RARE II process, the Forest Service supported wilderness for the Apache Kid because it is eminently qualified by all the criteria of the Wilderness Act. The Apache Kid is an area of major importance to conservationists. For a more detailed analysis, I refer you to the maps and proposal submitted to the New Mexico Congressional delegation sometime before this hearing.

I urge you also to give further consideration to the Banco Breaks (Guadalupe) area northeast of Mount Taylor. This is another area which clearly meets the criteria of the Wilderness Act. We realize that the mineral potential for the Banco Breaks is very high but so is the potential for almost all the surrounding lands. We fully expect to see much of the land in the middle vicinity disrupted by major strip mining in the years to come. Given the fact that the surrounding uranium deposits will be much easier to exploit; and the fact that already the Banco Breaks provides the major refuge for the deer, elk and other wildlife of the area; and the fact that substantial Indian ruins are located in the area, we believe that the area should be designated Wilderness. The uranium deposits which may underlie the area will remain until such time as they are absolutely essential for the nation's well-being or until such time as we decide to leave them in the ground forever.

Let me also mention other areas in the Cibola which we believe qualify for Wilderness designation and for which we already have maps and proposals, or for which we are in the process of preparing proposals: Canadian River, Ryan Hill, Scott Mesa, Mount Taylor, San Jose, White Cap, Ranger Cabin and Cerro Alesna.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet with Members of Congress to discuss our specific proposals on these areas.

THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

March 8, 1979

The Honorable Rupert Cutler
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Cutler;

The following comments concerning RARE II in New Mexico are on behalf of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

We endorse the general comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement made jointly by the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The following specific comments are not meant to be an exhaustive critique of RARE II but rather to serve as specific examples of general problems.

In the final EIS the Regional Forester split a number of areas that were considered as whole units in the draft. (Areas 3069, 3038, 3070, 3105, 3032, 3033, 3156, 3162). Had that step been taken at the draft stage it would have been appropriate. As it was, it had the effect of not allowing a large portion of the public commenting on the plan to consider these new areas as separate units.

A quick reading of the table showing each RARE II area as it progressed through the decision making process shows that the critical step, in general, was step number two. The Regional Forester's perception of public agreement was a highly discretionary move of questionable validity.

Of 80 areas in Region 3 changed at step two 97,5% (78) were downgraded from Wilderness to Further Planning or from Further Planning to Non-wilderness. In many of these cases it is impossible to discover the factual basis for decision making.

For example, concerning areas 3072, West Face Sacramento Mountains; and 3074, Little Dog and Pup Canyon, the Regional Forester says, "Strong local support for non-wilderness

The Honorable Rupert Cutler page 2

from permittees, local residents, mining interests and elected officials." The forest Service RA 1 tables which show public input for specific areas show 222 signatures from New Mexico favoring wilderness and 95 for non-wilderness for area 3072; and 191 for and 51 against for area 3074.

In another case, area 3103, Erosion, The Regional Forester says, "Strong local support for non-wilderness, about 6 to 1." The tables show 181 in state responses for and 124 against.

Where is the documentation for these decisons?

One Arizona area, 3127 Kane Springs, was down graded from FP to NW because it was not in Arizona Alternative W, the citizens' alternative!

Substantive mineral data appears to be non-existent. The mineral rating assigned to each area might as well have been plucked from a hat for all the valid data presented in the DEIS. What is the basis for these ratings?

Area 3162, Contiguous to the Black Range and Aldo Leopold, is a particularly illuminating case. Area 3162 entered the decision making process in the FP category. At step five it was upgraded to W because it is in the top 30% of the Region's WARS scores. Then in step 6a it was downgraded to FP on the basis of one of those nebulous minerals ratings. In step 6b the final blow falls when the area is downgraded to NW because of supposed economic impact on the Reserve Saw Mill. Yet in the Deis a statement listing areas presumed to be of specific importance to the Reserve Saw Mill failed to mention area 3162, (NM Supplement, pp 54-55, 74). Not to mention the fact that there exists no road between the area and the Reserve mill capable of carrying logging traffic.

On the basis of inadequate analysis of resources and public input the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club requests that Alternative W areas recommended for non-wilderness in RARE II be placed in the Further Planning category and provided interim protection until the Forest Service land use planning process is complete. We are most specifically concerned that the following areas might be subject to immediate development without due consideration:
Areas 3034, 3035, 3039, 3038, 3016, 3017, 3139, 3162.

Yours very truly,

Jim Stewart
1004 Palisades, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

MAY 12 1980

Honorable John F. Seiberling
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands
Committee on Interior and
  Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In the meeting on November 1, 1979, concerning the proposed committee guidelines for grazing in wilderness, we indicated the need to evaluate the guidelines for consistency with the specific statutory language and legislative history of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-577).

We have examined the proposed grazing guidelines and policies contained in Committee Report No. 96-617 to determine if authority exists under the Wilderness Act to enable the Forest Service to implement those guidelines and policies. As part of our review, we made a comprehensive search of the Act's legislative history. The Department's Office of the General Counsel has assisted us in this effort.

We have had discussions with you and others on the legal aspects of the proposed guidelines. As a result of these discussions and our review, the following information is provided you.

The concerns with the grazing guidelines contained in the House Report on H.R. 5487 have stemmed from the relationship of section 4(d)(4)(2) and section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Section 4(d)(4)(2) clearly provides that livestock grazing operations established prior to the date of the act shall be permitted to continue, but this provision must be read in conjunction with the prohibitions in section 4(c).

In the administration of the Wilderness Act, the responsibility of the administering agency is to carry out the direction of both sections. We believe the guidelines are consistent with these provisions. We will apply them so as to permit activities and facilities identified in the guidelines to the extent they are necessary for the continuation of livestock grazing operations.

We note that a number of areas proposed for wilderness in Colorado and other States contain existing activities and facilities that are incompatible with the wilderness environment. However, sections 4(d)(4)(2) and 4(c) provide for the continuation of livestock grazing operations under certain conditions. Therefore, it will remain our policy, and we believe this policy is within the intent of the proposed guidelines, to phase out such activities and facilities that are incompatible with wilderness where they are not necessary to the continuation of livestock grazing operations.

The determination of what is necessary will be considered on a case by case basis. The House Committee Report provides guidance and interpretation to help assure that our wilderness management is consistent with congressional intent. Our field staff will be informed appropriately to assure consistent implementation of the policy.

We believe it is unnecessary to repeat policy direction in each wilderness bill and report that comes before the Congress.

Because Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kogovsek participated in the meeting of last November 1, we have also provided them the results of our evaluation in similar letters.

Sincerely,

[illegible], CUTLER
Assistant Secretary for
Natural Resources and Environment

19 May 1980

Honorable Congressmen,

The article about "Wilderness" in the newspaper is an idea whose time has come to light. This should be the beginning of an effort for every man, woman and child on God's green earth to contribute towards restoring and rebuilding every depleted forest and wilderness in the world which has been ravaged by human carelessness or acts of nature.

Time seems to be running out for all ground-life, air and sea life because of human expansion, and who needs more people? The gift of trees, the beauty of nature is certainly much more beautiful; wilderness and wild animals were here long before man, and they will be here long after man is gone. This was their home first and humanity is running the plants, birds, beast and fish out of their habitats.

For the above reasons, I oppose not only the New Mexico AntiWilderness Bill S2583, but the Antiwilderness efforts all over the world. We should put a stop to man's destruction and pollution and restore and replace God's gifts back to nature and Wilderness just the way we found them, and hope that something of that gift is left to future generations.

Every human being in this world should contribute towards a tree, a plant, of some kind in order that every forest, will grow a new tree where one has been destroyed. This is a very worth-while endeavor and we all should make it a priority.

Sincerely,

Anna McMillen

Anna McMillen

Dear Senators Domenici and Schmitt, and Representatives Lujan and Runnels:

My husband, Carlos, and myself stand wholeheartedly with the Sierra Club and thousands of other New Mexicans in opposition to Anti-Wilderness Bill # S2583! We strongly believe that the passage of such a Bill would open up much of our State to profit-greedy Corporations and Special Interest Groups. If they are allowed to overrun some of the most scenic areas in the Continental United States that are currently proposed to be added to our State's Wilderness designation - overdevelopment, overexploitation, and pollution would result. Only we who care can stop this from happening as it has in California and other states. As an avid lover of the natural outdoors, and having been to most of America's western states, I have personally seen the results of poorly-planned and executed projects, from overcrowded recreation areas to vast and devastating strip mines; open dumpinggrounds next to mountain waterways to so-called mountain resorts that are dirty, noisy, overcrowded, geared to rake in dollars with very little regard to the ecology of the area. Then, on the other hand, I have visited some of the Wilderness Areas that are currently protected from the disasters just mentioned. Along actual wilderness trails, I have had the unique and unforgettable privilege to thoroughly enjoy the untouched majesty of God's Creation, and with all the awe and excitement of a little child at Christmastime. Not only is it completely beautiful and matchless, fresh and alive, but the valuable watershed protects man from floods that could wipe out his livelihood and his life. In the west, water is one of the most cherished of our resources, yet, in many places where greed has been allowed to run rampant, this resource has not only been made unfit for human or animal consumption, but has been flagrantly wasted. At one location in our own Jemez Mountains, a large green valley filled with grazing cattle, lined on both sides by tall pines and aspens is horribly marred by the telltale presence of a stripmine that has carved its way around the slopes of an entire mountain, located in the dead center of the observer's vision as a grim testimonial of what is happening to what is left of our lovely wild lands, flaunting themselves in the faces of those Environmental Protection Agency people. WAKE UP BEFORE IT'S TOO DARNED LATE!!! Please vote *NO* and stop the passage of that Bill! Dont't let our Land of Enchantment be forever ruined, for us, and our posterity! Only we who care can stop it; and we have to stop it *now*.

Thank you very much for your consideration regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Carlos Jara
Mrs. Carlos Jara

Senator **Domenici**. Mr. Foreman.

STATEMENT OF DAVE FOREMAN, SOUTHWEST REPRESENTATIVE, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, BERNALILLO, N. MEX.

Mr. **Foreman**. Thank you, Senator Domenici.

I am Dave Foreman, representing the Wilderness Society and the Gila Wilderness Committee today. I will submit my entire statement for the record and will summarize it orally.

Senator **Domenici**. Your entire statement will be made part of the record.

Might I say to you personally—I say it personally to you because I know you better than the other four witnesses, that over the past years, in terms of wilderness areas and management of public domain, it has been my pleasure to work with you. I have done that on many occasions and I greatly respect your judgment.

When you hear of problems of competing interests such as sheepmen and cattlemen, you are one of those rare individuals that go out and live with them and spend time at their house and live on their ranch and see their problems. I think you have established some real personal relationships, and also of understanding, and in that context, I think you have contributed immensely. I know you don't agree personally with the bill, but I want to tell you that you have been of great help and hopefully will continue to be.

Mr. **Foreman**. Thank you. The feeling is mutual, and I hope the livestock industry will heed your remarks because when I leave the Wilderness Society in July, I will probably be going back to work as a horseshoer and that will help me get a job.

Over the last 8 years that I have worked with the Wilderness Society, it has been my pleasure to work with you and other members of the delegation on what I believe is reasonable legislation.

It was because of that that I view this bill with dismay and surprise. I believe that there are nine separate defects in the bill, any one of which alone would be enough for us to oppose the bill.

These defects are the release language in general, the release of all further planning areas, the release of the Apache Kid and Canadian River Canyon administration-endorsed wilderness, the unworkable and inadequate further study provision for San Francisco Canyon, and the very poor boundary proposals for the Aldo Leopold, Latir Peaks, Southern Guadalupe, Wheeler Peak Additions, and Pecos Additions wilderness proposals.

I would like to zero in, in my testimony, on the release language and on some of the areas in the Gila National Forest with which I am most familiar.

As far as the release language goes in section 5 of S. 2583, I think we have several objections to it. First of all, we believe the language is unnecessary.

As part of the RARE II decision, the Forest Service proposed over 1 million acres of New Mexico national forest lands for nonwilderness. These lands are, for all practical purposes, "released" from any wilderness restraints. They are now available for the full range of multiple uses under established Forest Service land use management planning. New Mexico conservationists have never had, nor do they have at this time, any plans to file California-type RARE II lawsuits.

Two, the process established for further consideration of "released" areas in New Mexico sets up some serious questions of national significance for the professional management of our national forests. Not only does the 10-year cycle for further consideration of wilderness seem to us to be unworkable and confused, but it also seems to establish a different standard of management for the million and a half acres of released lands in New Mexico than for the rest of the national forest system lands or even than the remaining 7½ million acres of national forest lands in New Mexico.

Does Congress really want to have a million and a half acres in New Mexico managed differently than the rest of the national forests?

It does not require much imagination to begin to realize some of the problems section 5 portends for the professional management of the national forests.

Moreover, section 5 appears to unduly, and perhaps unconstitutionally, restrict the prerogative of the executive branch of the Government to make recommendations to the legislative branch.

How does section 5 change the Forest Management Act, the land use planning process, the Forest Service manual?

A great number of basic policy decisions should be considered by this committee before rushing into any kind of approval of S. 2583. I am not a lawyer, and that may be my problem, but I thought legislation should solve problems. It looks to me that S. 2583 will cause more problems than it will solve.

We also must question the basic sincerity of this restudy process. We believe it is extremely unlikely that Congress will act on a wilderness recommendation during the session in which it is made; and therefore, it appears to us that this entire restudy process is merely window dressing to refute the contention that section 5 forever bars consideration of wilderness for these other lands.

Senator **Domenici**. Would 2 full years from the time it is sent up be more realistic?

Mr. **Foreman**. We have been working on the Aldo Leopold for 10 years.

Senator **Domenici**. You are speaking after the time of the recommendation the bill was sent up. You are saying if it is sent up 1 year and 2 months into a 2-year term, you would have very few months left. With reference to a specific recommendation, would 2 full years rather than a legislative session on that one item——

Mr. **Foreman**. I think part of our concern is that it is far easier to prevent legislation than to pass legislation. With a deadline of only 2 years, it becomes easier for somebody opposed to a specific wilderness proposal, even if a member of the delegation is pushing it, to delay it.

We saw one lose out in the last session of one Congress. It nearly lost out in the last session of the last Congress, even with full support of the New Mexico delegation.

Three, section 5, with one draconian swoop, elininates from wilderness consideration the 258,000 acres of national forest lands recommended for further planning by the Forest Service during

RARE II. These lands were proposed for further planning by the Forest Service because they did not believe they had adequate information on which to make a decision.

These areas were to be further considered during the land use planning process. Section 5 negates all this. It is important to note that no further planning areas are proposed for wilderness by S. 2583. Some of these further planning areas are among the finest wild lands in New Mexico, including the superb Columbine-Hondo high country near Taos, the desert to pine forest escarpment of the Sacramento Mountains near Alamogordo, and the vital additions to the Chama Canyon, San Pedro Parks, and Pecos Wilderness areas near Santa Fe. d

Four, finally, section 5 drops from wilderness consideration two areas recommended by the administration for wilderness in RARE II. One of these is the Apache Kid in the San Mateo Mountains near Socorro.

This vast southwestern mountain area where the last Apache renegade met his end has long been recognized as the outstanding roadless area in New Mexico by the Forest Service and conservationists.

Conservationists, in a spirit of moderation, proposed only 99,000 acres for wilderness in the Apache Kid in contrast to the Forest Service's 133,000 acre recommendation. Still, and without explanation, S. 2583 entirely drops the Apache Kid.

The other administration endorsed wilderness is the Canadian River Canyon, the only opportunity for a national grassland wilderness in the Southwest, and possibly the only remaining wild area in the high plains of northeastern New Mexico.

In summary, the release language contained in section 5 of S. 2583 is not only extraordinarily severe, but it is also unworkable and would place management of a portion of the national forest lands in New Mexico on a different legal footing than all other national forests.

I would also like to discuss the specific proposals on the Gila National Forest. I might mention that I own property within the Gila National Forest and have had my residence there for 7 years. I am intimately familiar with these areas and have worked for their preservation for more than 8 years.

In 1909, a young forester by the name of Aldo Leopold graduated from Yale and went to work for the Forest Service in its most remote district office, that covering the territories of New Mexico and Arizona. During the next decade, he became concerned with the destruction of wilderness in the Southwest and, in 1921, proposed that 1 million acres in the rugged headwaters of the Gila River be protected against roadbuilding, timber cutting, and other development.

In 1924, the Forest Service administratively designated the first wilderness area anywhere in the world, the Gila Wilderness. In 1933, unfortunately, a road was constructed through the area, separating the Black Range on the east from the rest of the area. This eastern section was renamed the Black Range Primitive Area by the Forest Service.

When the Forest Service studied the Black Range Primitive Area for reclassification under the Wilderness Act in 1971, they proposed naming the area in honor of Aldo Leopold, who, of course, had gone on to found the sciences of game management and ecology and to write the conservation classic, "A Sand County Almanac."

In designating the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, then, Congress is not merely protecting the rugged mountains, canyons, and ridges of the Black Range which the Denver Post magazine has called the "Wildest Wilderness in the West," but is creating a living monument to the greatest American conservationist. We must make certain it is a fitting memorial.

The Aldo Leopold Wilderness designated in S. 2583 is anything but this. Rather, it is a dismembering of an area protected over 50 years ago. And a slap in the face of Aldo Leopold.

Conservation groups propose a well-considered and thoroughly studied 315,000 acre wilderness. The Forest Service proposed 251,000 acres. But S. 2583 would protect only 177,000 acres and declassify much of the existing Black Range Primitive Area.

Even more baffling than the mediocre acreage contained in S. 2583 is the boundary drawn for the Aldo Leopold Wilderness. The southwest boundary follows the Grant County line—absolutely without relation to any standpoint of topography, wilderness values, or resources.

I am left well nigh speechless by this boundary. I cannot fathom it. And no explanation at all has been forthcoming on why this boundary is the way it is.

The boundary proposed for the additions to the Gila Wilderness in S. 2583 are better than that for the Aldo Leopold but still far from adequate. We strongly urge that the Gila Wilderness additions be expanded to the full 228,000 acres proposed by the Gila Wilderness Committee and other groups. We are very pleased, however, that most of the Gila Primitive Area is contained as wilderness in S. 2583.

Conservationists also object to section 4 of the bill, which is a study provision for the Lower San Francisco Canyon near Glenwood. First, we object because Lower San Francisco Canyon should be designated as wilderness and not merely for study.

The administration has proposed wilderness for the Frisco, the area received more support for wilderness than any other area in the Southwest during RARE II, and, particularly, biologists are in strong support of wilderness for San Francisco Canyon as a means of protecting the preeminent biological values of the area—San Francisco Canyon contains the largest undisturbed stretch of lower Sonoran riparian woodland in the United States and serves as crucial habitat for a wide variety of Sierra Madrean and Sonoran Desert species from Mexico.

There are also very serious questions about the study provision itself. What, for example, is a "further study area"? Is this a new classification system Congress is creating?

Has this been considered in a national context?

How can section 4 lay claim to being serious when there is no interim protection for the area during study but rather a seeming mandate to manage it on a wide-open basis?

As in the section 5 release portion of this bill, we do not believe it is realistic to expect Congress to act on a wilderness recommendation during the session in which it is made.

Finally, subsections (c) (1) and (2) seem to indicate that it is not expected that Congress will designate wilderness in the area regardless of what recommendation is received from the Secretary.

Section 4 is one more example of how S. 2583 is not merely a wilderness bill for New Mexico with inadequate boundaries, but would go much further than that, and establish questionable new policies for the management of national forest lands.

Regretfully, because of all these complex, serious, and poorly considered defects in S. 2583, we respectfully urge Senator Domenici and Senator Schmitt to withdraw the bill and come back in a later session of Congress with a clean, fresh approach.

Conservationists in New Mexico, now, as always, are willing and eager to discuss wilderness legislation with Members of Congress and with other interest groups, such as the livestock, mining, and timber industries. We are willing to consider other points of view, to modify boundaries, to make reasonable compromises. But we cannot accept S. 2583.

Senator Schmitt. Thank you, Dave.

Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you like the show?

Is there anything you like about the bill?

Mr. Foreman. I like Withington Boundary and the Capitan Boundary.

Senator Schmitt. And that is it?

Mr. Foreman. If the bill could be modified just to have those two parts in it, we would be in strong support of the bill.

Senator Schmitt. Do you think you need a bill at all?

Mr. Foreman. To be honest, I think we are better off with merely the Forest Service recommendations at this point.

Senator Schmitt. They can't designate wilderness.

Mr. Foreman. No.

Senator Schmitt. Would you rather not have a bill ever? Leave the world like it is now?

Mr. Foreman. In lieu of S. 2583, I think I would prefer that.

Senator Schmitt. Let's say it was the administration's proposal, but with release language.

Mr. Foreman. I think that there are a number of questions in the release language proposed situation that we should consider. First of all, I think what the release language is saying, if the Forest Service did a sorry job and, in fact, did violate NEPA, thus making themselves liable to a lawsuit such as the California RARE II type lawsuit, then Congress should come in and say, well, even though the Forest Service didn't follow NEPA, we will pretend they did, and insulate them from the lawsuits.

You are saying Congress can cover up to keep from judicial review. Beyond that, Senator Domenici discussed the release language earlier in his opening remarks, and mentioned that there are various kinds of release language from the NEPA approach to the approach contained in this bill. If that is the whole spread then we are talking about from A to B, instead of from A to Z.

I think there are more moderate versions of release language, and if there is going to be release language, then it should be worked out in some kind of a national context.

We don't think there is a need for it at all.

Senator **Domenici**. I was talking about the duration of 10 years being thought by some to be an enormous length of time to restrict. I was merely saying, they go from 10 years to the language which says this is the end of wilderness consideration.

So on those two extremes we have the times.

Incidentally, the Senate has passed in Senate bill 2583—and if you all want to look at that bill, you might just make a note and we will get it to you—no, excuse me—the Oregon bill——

Senator **Schmitt**. I thought there was something that slipped by me there.

Senator **Domenici**. In S. 2031, there is a whole section saying we have finished the consideration of wilderness here and there will be no more, and it doesn't have any 10 years in it. It has one aspect that permits them to continue planning.

I haven't analyzed that in reference to the difference between that and section 5. But obviously, there is a genuine concern that this whole process—and I think you would agree, have—started with administrative decisions in the field, RARE I, and ended up with that getting into a court. Now a court is saying what is legal and what is not legal, when all of it was being done in order to help Congress decide what ought to be wilderness.

And it is in that context that we are asking what our role is. Do we come up with something that at least says, OK, you have done your review. I personally don't think that we know everything about planning and use and I hope no one thinks I do. But it seems to me when you go 7 or 8 years, and we are still reviewing it, we finish reviewing it.

If there is a couple of bona fide areas that are still to be discussed, I would like to know the impact of that. I don't want to forever preclude it. But you can't say you have to study a specific wilderness area forever, especially if you bring it here and Congress says we are taking a piece of it and here is the bill.

How does this process end?

I guess that is what we are trying to address. We might have done it in a manner as you describe, and it may need a lot of work, I don't know.

We are going to look at that. I can assure you of that.

Would you look at the Oregon bill, all of you that are interested in the release language, and give us your comments on that?

Mr. **Foreman**. Yes. I think we would be happy to.

Senator **Domenici**. Were you finished?

Mr. **Foreman**. Yes, sir.

Senator **Domenici**. Could I ask just one question, Dave?

With reference to the million or so acres that the Forest Service nor the administration recommended after RARE II was completed. Would you agree that there ought to be some finding that the EIS predescribed by the court—not by the Congress—on that language has been completed and done properly, might be in order?

Mr. **Foreman**. I think that is a question we are willing to talk about.

Senator **Domenici**. That is very generous. I mean all you are really saying is that you don't want anyone to bring a California-type lawsuit on that and you don't intend to.

Mr. **Foreman**. Right.

Senator **Domenici**. I understand none of the major conservation groups in the United States were parties to that lawsuit——

Mr. **Foreman**. And we did try to discourage that lawsuit, I believe.

Senator **Domenici**. It still brings to light much of the furor for release language and culminating language saying the job has been done right.

The conclusions and final decisions may be subject to debate, but at least we have completed the final assessment.

Mr. **Foreman**. We would like to forget about RARE II.

Senator **Schmitt**. That sounds like an endorsement of the release language. I can't assume that, Dave?

Mr. **Foreman**. I don't think you can assume that, no.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Foreman and subsequent information follow:]

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1935

STATEMENT OF
DAVE FOREMAN

before

SENATE PARKS, RECREATION, AND
RENEWABLE RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

on

S.2583

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS LEGISLATION: 1980

May 29, 1980

1901 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
(202) 828-6600

My name is Dave Foreman. I am the Southwest Representative for The Wilderness Society and also am representing today the Gila Wilderness Committee, a local conservation organization in southwest New Mexico. I was born and raised in New Mexico and my great-grandparents homesteaded in the New Mexico region during territorial days.

I would like to preface my remarks on S.2583 by saying that I have had the pleasure during the last seven or eight years of working on several pieces of wilderness legislation with the members of the New Mexico delegation. Conservationists in New Mexico greatly appreciate the strong support for wilderness the members of the New Mexico delegation have shown on such wilderness proposals as the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Bandelier National Monument, the Sandia, Manzano, and Chama Canyon areas in the Endangered American Wilderness Act, and, this year, the vital Eleana Gallegos addition to the Sandia Mountains Wilderness.

It is because of this past support for reasonable wilderness legislation shown by the New Mexico delegation that conservationists in New Mexico are surprised and distressed by the introduction of S.2583. As presently written, S.2583 cannot be considered a wilderness bill, but it is rather an anti-wilderness bill. I must express my sincere and strong opposition to this bill and urge the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to reject the bill. There are nine defects in the bill, any one of which alone would be sufficient for conservation groups to oppose the bill entirely. These weaknesses are: the release language in general, release of all further planning areas, release of the Apache Kid and Canadian River Canyon administration-endorsed wilderness, the unworkable and inadequate further study provision for San Francisco Canyon, and the very poor boundary proposals for the Aldo Leopold, Latir Peaks, Southern Guadalupe, Wheeler Peak Additions, and Pecos Additions wilderness proposals. Indeed, of the eleven areas included for wilderness in S.2583, only the boundaries for Capitan and Withington are acceptable to conservationists.

Because of the degree and extent of objectionable features in S.2583, we do not expect that sufficient modifications can be made to the bill during this session of Congress. We therefore urge the members of the New Mexico delegation to drop plans for a RARE II bill this session and wait until a later session of Congress when they are better able to more adequately consider the issues, and the needs and opinions of the people of the United States in drafting a bill.

In addition to these general comments, I would like to discuss in more detail the release language contained in Section 5 of S.2583 and the wilderness boundaries proposed in the bill for areas in the Gila National Forest.

Section 5 of S.2583 establishes a rather involved, confused, and, we believe, a most unwise, wilderness release provision. We object to Section 5 for the following reasons:

1. It is unnecessary. As part of the RARE II decision, the Forest Service proposed over one million acres of New Mexico national forest lands for non-wilderness. These lands are, for all practical purposes, "released" from any wilderness restraints. They are now available for the full range of multiple uses under established forest service land use management planning. New Mexico conservationists have never had, nor do they have at this time, any plans to file California-type RARE II lawsuits.

2. The process established for further consideration of "released" areas in New Mexico sets up some serious questions of national significance for the professional management of our national forests. Not only does the ten year cycle for further consideration of wilderness seem to us to be unworkable and confused, but it also seems to establish a different standard of management for the million and a half acres of "released" lands in New Mexico than for the rest of the national forest system lands or even than the remaining seven and a half million acres of national forest lands in New Mexico. Does Congress really want to have a million and a half acres in New Mexico managed differently than the rest of the national forests? It does not require much imagination to begin to realize some of the problems Section 5 portends for the professional management of the national forests. Moreover, Section 5 appears to unduly, and perhaps unconstitutionally, restrict the perogative of the executive branch of government to make recommendations to the legislative branch. How does Section 5 change the Forest Management Act, the land use planning process, the forest service manual? A great number of basic policy decisions should be considered by this committee before rushing into any kind of approval of S.2583. I am not a lawyer, and that may be my problem, but I thought legislation should solve problems. It looks to me that S. 2583 will cause more problems than it will solve. We also must question the basic sincerity of this re-study process. We believe it is extremely unlikely to expect Congress to act on a wilderness recommendation during the session in which it is made; and therefore, it appears to us that this entire re-study process is merely window-dressing to refute the contention that Section 5 forever bars consideration of wilderness for these other lands.

3. Section 5, with one draconian swoop, eliminates from wilderness consideration the 258,000 acres of national forest lands recommended for further planning by the Forest Service during RARE II. These lands were proposed for further planning by the forest service because they did not believe they had adequate information on which to make a decision. These areas were to be further considered during the land use planning process. Section 5 negates all this. It is important to note that no further planning areas are proposed for wilderness by S.2583. Some of these further planning areas are among the finest wild lands in New Mexico, including the superb Columbine-Hondo high country near Taos, the desert to pine forest escarpment of the Sacramento Mountains near Alamogordo, and the vital additions to the Chama Canyon, San Pedro Parks, and Pecos Wilderness areas near Santa Fe.

4. Finally, Section 5 drops from wilderness consideration two areas recommended by the Administration for wilderness in RARE II. One of these is the Apache Kid in the San Mateo Mountains near Socorro. This vast southwestern mountain area where the last Apache renegade met his end has long been recognized as the outstanding roadless area in New Mexico by the forest service and conservationists. Conservationists, in a spirit of moderation, proposed only 99,000 acres for wilderness in the Apache Kid in contrast to the forest service's 133,000 acre recommendation. Still, and without explanation, S.2583 entirely drops the Apache Kid. The other administration endorsed wilderness is the Canadian River Canyon, the only opportunity for a national grassland wilderness in the southwest, and possibly the only remaining wild area in the high plains of northeastern New Mexico.

In summary, the release language contained in Section 5 of S.2583 is not only extraordinarily severe, but it is also unworkable and would place management of a portion of the national forest lands in New Mexico on a different legal footing than all other national forests.

I would also like to discuss the specific proposals on the Gila National Forest. I might mention that I own property within the Gila National Forest and have had my residence there for seven years. I am intimately familiar with these areas and have worked for their preservation for more than eight years.

In 1909, a young forester by the name of Aldo Leopold graduated from Yale and went to work for the Forest Service in its most remote District office, that covering the territories of New Mexico and Arizona. During the next decade, he became concerned with the destruction of wilderness in the Southwest and, in 1921, proposed that a million acres in the rugged headwaters of the Gila River be protected against roadbuilding, timber cutting, and other development. In 1924, the Forest Service administratively designated the first Wilderness Area anywhere in the world, the Gila Wilderness. In 1933, unfortunately, a road was constructed through the area, separating the Black Range on the east from the rest of the area. This eastern section was renamed the Black Range Primitive Area by the Forest Service.

When the Forest Service studied the Black Range Primitive Area for reclassification under the Wilderness Act in 1971, they proposed naming the area in honor

best copy available

pages tightly bound

of Aldo Leopold, who, of course, had gone on to found the sciences of game management and ecology and to write the conservation classic, A Sand County Almanac.

In designating the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, then, Congress is not merely protecting the rugged mountains, canyons, and ridges of the Black Range which the Denver Post Magazine has called the "Wildest Wilderness in the West", but is creating a living monument to the greatest American conservationist. We must make certain it is a fitting memorial.

The Aldo Leopold Wilderness designated in S.2583 is anything but this. Rather, it is a dismembering of an area protected over 50 years ago. And a slap in the face of Aldo Leopold. Conservation groups propose a well-considered and thoroughly studied 315,000 acre wilderness. The Forest Service proposes 251,000 acres. But S.2583 would protect only 177,000 acres and declassify much of the existing Black Range Primitive Area.

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The boundary proposed for the additions to the Gila Wilderness in S.2583 are better than that for the Aldo Leopold but still far from adequate. We strongly urge that the Gila Wilderness additions be expanded to the full 228,000 acres proposed by the Gila Wilderness Committee and other groups. We are very pleased, however, that most of the Gila Primitive Area is contained in S.2583.

Conservationists also object to Section 4 of the bill, which is a study provision for the Lower San Francisco Canyon near Glenwood. First, we object because Lower San Francisco Canyon should be designated as wilderness and not merely for study. The administration has proposed wilderness for the Frisco, the area received more support for wilderness than any other area in the southwest during RARE II, and, particularly, biologists are in strong support of wilderness for San Francisco Canyon as a means of protecting the pre-eminent biological values of the area (San Francisco Canyon contains the largest undisturbed stretch of lower Sonoran riparian woodland in the United States and serves as crucial habitat for a wide variety of Sierra Madrean and Sonoran Desert species from Mexico).

There are also very serious questions about the study provision itself. What, for example, is a "further study area"? Is this a new classification system Congress is creating? Has this been considered in a national context? How can Section 4 lay claim to being serious when there is no interim protection for the area during study but rather a seeming mandate to manage it on a wide-open basis? As in the Section 5 release portion of this bill, we do not believe it is realistic to expect Congress to act on a wilderness recommendation during the session in which it is made. Finally, subsections c(1)and (2) seem to indicate that it is not expected that Congress will designate wilderness in the area regardless of what recommendation is received from the Secretary. Section 4 is one more example of how S.2583 is not merely a wilderness bill for New Mexico with inadequate boundaries, but would go much further than that, and establish questionable new policies for the management of national forest lands.

Regretfully, because of all these complex, serious, and poorly considered defects in S.2583, we respectfully urge Senator Domenici to withdraw the bill and come back in a later session of Congress with a clean, fresh approach. Conservationists in New Mexico, now, as always, are willing and eager to discuss wilderness legislation with members of Congress and with other interest groups, such as the livestock, mining, and timber industries. We are willing to consider other points of view, to modify boundaries, to make reasonable compromises. But we cannot accept S.2583.

The
Wilderness
Society

The Wilderness Society
Southwest Regional Office
P. O. Box 1160
Bernalillo, NM 87004
(505) 867-3139

June 9, 1980

The Hon. Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Domenici

At the May 29 hearing on S 2583 several questions were raised on which I would like to offer some clarification. I believe that Sen. Schmitt commented that a large portion of the Gila Wilderness was not presently being grazed by domestic livestock. This is correct. The Heart Bar Ranch near the Gila Cliff Dwellings and its allotment, making up some 300,000 acres in the central portion of the wilderness, was purchased in 1951, I believe, by the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish in order to use these lands for re-introduction of elk. So, it is important to note, cattle grazing was not retired in this area by the Forest Service because of wilderness, but the ranch was acquired by the NMDGF and the forest allotment was given over to elk by the permittee, the NMDGF.

The problem of fuel buildup in the Gila Wilderness was also mentioned. Unquestionably a serious problem exists in the Wilderness because of past fire control and the resultant fuel buildup and vegetative changes (little new aspen growth, invasion of grassland areas by trees, dog hair stands, etc.). Fortunately, the Forest Service is now taking a more realistic and ecological view of this issue and is allowing some natural fires to burn in the Wilderness. We hope that this "let burn" policy will expand in order to bring back natural ecological succession and better wildlife habitat in the wilderness. Here the problem is not wilderness but past Forest Service management.

Comments were made about the wilderness characteristics of that part of the Gila Primitive Area not proposed for wilderness in 1973 by the Forest Service but which is now being proposed. I am enclosing a copy of our 1972 report on these areas which should demonstrate that they do qualify for wilderness designation.

I also would like to clarify the acreage difference between the Forest Service RARE II recommendations for New Mexico and those of the Administration. Comments made at the hearing may have left some with the impression that President Carter increased the RARE II wilderness recommendations in New Mexico by 300,000 acres. The only changes made by the Administration were to drop the Guadalupe area on the Cibola NF from Further Planning to Non Wilderness and to change the Non Wilderness recommendation for Lower San Francisco Canyon to Wilderness and Further Planning. The difference in acreage between the Forest Service recommendation and that of the President was that the President's included those lands proposed for the Aldo Leopold Wilderness (Black Range Primitive Area), Blue Range Wilderness (Blue Range Primitive Area), and Gila Wilderness Additions

"IN WILDNESS IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD." — Thoreau

(Gila Primitive Area) by the Nixon Administration back in the early seventies.

Finally, you asked what the impact would be if no New Mexico RARE II wilderness bill was enacted this year. I think that the impact would be rather insignificant. Specifically:

1. For areas recommended for Non Wilderness by the Administration: These areas will be managed for the full range of multiple uses by the Forest Service. Planned development activities will proceed (see attached letter Peterson to Seiberling). Conservationists plan to file no California-type RARE II lawsuits. Although we will continue to lobby members of the New Mexico delegation for wilderness legislation to protect a few of these areas, they are effectively "released" by the Administration's decision.

2. For Further Planning Areas: These areas will be considered for all multiple uses (including wilderness) during the Forest land use plans (due by 1985). These areas are not closed to range improvements, ORV use (except by previous FS decision), etc. Timber values are generally mediocre.

3. For Wilderness Recommendations: These areas will continue to be managed by the Forest Service in such a way as to leave the wilderness option open to Congressional decision. This does not mean that they are administratively designated wilderness areas. For example, even though San Francisco Canyon is recommended for wilderness, the Forest Service has left it open to off-road-vehicle use.

RARE II and its aftermath have simply not tied up New Mexico National Forest lands. If no action is taken this year on the RARE II wilderness recommendations, management for grazing, timber, wildlife, oil & gas, mining, developed recreation, etc. will continue on the National Forests in New Mexico. For that 800,000 acres (9% of the National Forest land in New Mexico) proposed by the Administration for wilderness, wilderness values will generally be protected until Congress makes its decision. While we would like to settle the wilderness matter and add these lands to the National Wilderness Preservation System, we certainly prefer to wait for a more balanced and carefully considered piece of legislation than S 2583. Simply put, the sky will not fall on any interest group if a New Mexico RARE II bill is delayed.

I might also mention that as far as the Bureau of Land Management goes, the only New Mexico BLM wilderness recommendations the 97th Congress should receive will be for Grants Malpais and against the Mathers Natural Area. No flood of BLM wilderness proposals will be on your doorstep.

If I may be of any further assistance, please let me know. My address and phone number after July 1 will be: PO Box 38, Glenwood, NM 88039 (505)539-2645.

Sincerely

Dave Foreman
Southwest Representative

cc: Hon. Jack Schmitt
Hon. Dale Bumpers

PS: please include this in the hearing record

COMPARISON OF NEW MEXICO RARE II AREAS

	NMWSC	USFS	S 2583
LINCOLN NF			
Capitan Mountain	38,000	36,400	36,400
White Mt Wild Cont	21,690	19,600 + 990 FP	19,100
Southern Guadalupe	21,300	21,000	16,000
West Face Sacramento	43,440	42,730 FP	
Little Dog & Pup	25,920	25,920 FP	
Carrizo Mountain	16,450		
Ortega Peak	10,890		
North Rocky Canyon	6,810		
Last Chance Canyon	9,860		
Culp	4,820		
Grapevine			
Jeffries Canyon			
Tucson Mountain			
TOTALS:	199,180	77,000 + 69,640 FP	73,500
SANTA FE NF			
Pecos Wild Cont*[1]	154,500	71,000 + 17,530 FP	70,000
Dome	6,000	5,200	5,200
Chama Wild Cont	4,800	4,800 FP	
San Pedro Parks W Cont	5,670	5,670 FP	
Polvadera	15,480	15,480 FP	
Caballo	8,800	8,800 FP	
Corral	11,000		
Peralta	13,400		
Canones Pedernal	12,900		
Virgin	6,250		
Caja	14,000		
Tesuque			

	NMWSC	USFS	S 2583
Erosion			
Barranca			
TOTALS:	252,800	76,200 + 52,280 FP	75,200
CARSON NF			
Wheeler Peak Wild Cont	17,000	14,700	9,100
Latir Peak	26,500	24,600	15,600
Columbine-Hondo	50,500	46,050 FP	
Cruces Basin/Osier Mesa	33,900*2		
Canjilon/El Rito	22,200		
Sierra Negra	16,400		
Bull Canyon	12,000		
TOTALS:	178,500	39,300 + 46,050 FP	24,700
CIBOLA NF			
Apache Kid	99,182	133,000	
Withington	19,110	19,000	19,000
Canadian River	4,020	3,460	
Ryan Hill	45,000	36,640 FP	
Gundalupe (Banco Breaks)	12,650		
Mt Taylor	6,360		
Scott Mesa	40,000		
San Jose	17,890		
White Cap	11,800		
Ranger Cabin	6,380		
Cerro Alesna	6,910		
Madre Mt			
Goat Spring			
Datil			
TOTALS:	269,302	155,460 + 36,640 FP	19,000

	NMWSC	USFS	S 2383
CORONADO NF			
Bunk Robinson Peak	15,850*3	15,110 FP	
Whitmire Canyon	18,000*3	7,660 FP	
Juniper Basin			
TOTALS:	33,850	22,770 FP	0
GILA NF			
Gila Wild. Cont	228,137	166,000	155,000
Aldo Leopold	315,000	251,000	178,000
Blue Range	40,000*4	40,000	35,000
Lower San Francisco	19,000*4	8,800 + 11,500 FP	26,000 FP *5
Hell Hole	18,860	18,860 FP	
Devils Creek	91,000		
Frisco Box	40,000		
Gila Middle Box	32,000		
Sawyers Peak	64,200		
Aspen Mt	22,100		
T-Bar	7,000		
Nolan	12,200		
Mother Hubbard	6,090		
The Hub			
Brushy Spring			
Apache Mountain			
Brushy Mountain			
Wagon Tongue			
Eagle Peak			
Elk Mountain			
Canyon Creek			
Taylor Creek			
Stone Canyon			
Wahoo Mountain			
Poverty Creek			
Dry Creek			
Largo			
Meadow Creek			
TOTALS:	895,587	465,800 + 30,360 FP	368,000 + 26.000 F
NEW MEXICO TOTAL:	~~1,656,719~~ 1,529,217	813,760 + 257,740 FP	560,400 + 26,000 F

*1 includes some acreage in Carson NF

*2 includes small acreage in Colorado

*3 includes small acreage in Arizona

*4 includes only acreage in New Mexico. conservationists propose a combined Blue Range/San Francisco Canyon Wilderness in Arizona & New Mexico of 354,691 acres

*5 includes lands in Arizona

Acreages given are for area proposed as wilderness or further planning (FP). No acreage figure indicates area is not proposed as wilderness or further planning.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
P. O. Box 2417
Washington, D. C. 20013

APR 3 1980

1920

Honorable John F. Seiberling
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Information on FY 1980 development activities scheduled for nonwilderness areas identified in RARE II is enclosed. This does not include information for Alaska or activities scheduled beyond FY 1980. We have compiled the information at your request and our agreement as set forth in our letter of December 26, 1979.

The specific development information for nonwilderness areas includes planned timber sales, permits issued for oil and gas, road construction, and other major construction activities. In collecting the information on planned timber sales, we have used the information contained in annual timber sale programs prepared by Forest Supervisors. These plans do not identify some of the small Ranger sales and some salvage sales. In defining "other major construction activity", we asked the Forest Supervisors to report planned activities such as: construction of major developed recreation sites; major water impoundments; and any other activity they believe relevant.

Sincerely,

R. Max Peterson
R. MAX PETERSON
Chief

Enclosures

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN ROADLESS NONWILDERNESS

Activities listed are currently planned to occur in FY 80 within areas designated as nonwilderness as a result of the Forest Service RARE II process. Specific categories of activities were listed that have the potential for affecting wilderness qualities, particularly construction. This listing of projects is subject to change due to unforeseen emergencies, budgetary changes, and other activities such as minerals exploration or special use permit applications which may occur but are not predictable now. This list may not include some of the small Ranger timber sales and some potential salvage timber sales.

The RARE II NUMBER and NAME refers to the identification of areas listed in the Final RARE II EIS. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION defines or localizes the activity. For California only, an * indicates the area lies within the jurisdiction of the Eastern District Court, a # indicates the area is included in the California Lawsuit.

Management Information Handbook (MIH) CODE consistent with all management information systems, lists activities by specific codes:

1. E06 - Planned Timber Sales

2. C02 - Mineral Management - Oil & Gas

3. L04 - Arterial Road Construction
   L08 - Collector Road Construction
   L12 - Local Road Construction
   L14 - Timber Sale Road Construction
   L30 - Temporary Road Construction

4. OTHER CONSTRUCTION
   A05 - Recreation Construction
   A06 - Recreation Reconstruction
   J01 - Special Uses
   P13 - Fuelbreak Construction, Maintenance

FY (Fiscal Year) identifies FY 80, while STATE, CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, REGION and FOREST are all coded for location of the planned activity. See attached codes for State, Region, and Forest.

ACRES, MILES and VOLUME describe the extent of the activity within the roadless area. MBF is the unit of measure, thousand board feet, unless otherwise noted.

SILVICULTURAL TREATMENT code distinguishes timber sale harvest methods:

100 - Regeneration harvest
200 - Intermediate harvest
230 - Sanitation (salvage) cutting

The STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT explains how far along plans were as of January 8, 1980. For oil and gas leases, "P" indicates a pending lease, "E" shows an existing lease, and "ES" describes those existing leases with restrictions on operations. For timber sales the following codes are explained:

600 - No activity completed
610 - Sale reconnaissance completed
620 - Sale area planning completed
630 - Sale design, package preparation completed
640 - Appraisal, review, advertising completed
650 - Bids opened
660 - Sale awarded

RARE II NUMBER	RARE II NAME	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	SIR CODE	EIS	STATE	CONG DIST	REGION AND FOREST	ACRES IMPACTED	MILES	T.SALE VOL. (MBF)	SILV. TREAT.	
03135	Mother Hubbard	Turkey	E06	No	04	02	0301	100		75	100	650
J3038	Pecos Contiguous	Timber Sale	E06	No	35	02	0302	57		320	100	640
03129	Galiuro Wild. Cont.	Oil & Gas	002	No	04	04	0305	1,280				Pending
03156	Gila	Trout Creek	E06	No	35	02	0306	390		200	200	670
03193	The Hub	Oil and Gas	012	No	35	02	0306	2,532				P
03195	Apache Mtn.	Apache-D9	E06	No	35	02	0306	3,460		3,700	100	610
03195	Apache Mtn.	Fuel Break	P13	No	35	02	0306	735				
03195	Apache Mtn.	Road Construction	L19	No	35	02	0306		16.9			
03198	Aspen Mtn.	Salvage	E06	No	35	02	0306	70		297	230	610
03163	Largo	Oil and Gas	007	No	35	02	0306	1,400				P

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN ROADLESS NONWILDERNESS

RARE II NUMBER	RARE II NAME	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	MIH CODE	FY	STATE	CONG DIST	REGION AND FOREST	ACRES IMPACTED	MILES	T.SALE VOL. (MBF)	SILV. TREAT.	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT
03075	North Rocky Canyon	Oil & Gas Leases	002	80	35	02	0308	5,035				P
03075	North Rocky Canyon	Oil & Gas Leases	002	80	35	02	0308	2,105				P
03076	Last Chance Canyon	Oil & Gas Leases	002	80	35	02	0308	1,595				P
03076	Last Chance Canyon	Oil & Gas Leases	002	80	35	02	0308	5,415				P
03091	Grief Hill I-17	Fuelwood Cutting	005	80	04	03	0309	400		400 CD		660 Planning
03094	SycamoreCnynWldCntlr	X-mas Tree	005	80	04	03	0309	600				660 Continuing
03097	Corral	Production	002	80	35	01	0310					E

For the Freedom of Wilderness
Sierra Ancha Range
For the Freedom of Wilderness
Big Sur Coast
For the Freedom of Wilderness
Animas River Canyon
For the Freedom of Wilderness
Hoh Rain Forest
For the Freedom of Wilderness
Quaking Aspen Colorado

The
WILDERNESS SOCIETY

The Wilderness Society
Southwest Regional Office
P.O. Box 1160
Bernalillo, NM 87004
(505) 867-3139

June 10, 1980

Mr. James H. Abbott
Forest Supervisor
Lincoln National Forest
Federal Building
11th & New York
Alamogordo, NM 88310

Dear Jim

Your May 15 letter regarding oil & gas leasing in the proposed Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness has just been brought to my attention. I am considerably distressed for two reasons:

1. As far as I can tell, no conservationist received a copy of the letter from the Lincoln NF. I am stunned that you would consider such a serious action and not even bother to contact me or Wesley Leonard in particular.

2. The Southern Guadalupe area is considered generally to be among the highest quality wilderness recommendations in the Southwest. Oil and gas leasing is clearly incompatible with these superlative wilderness values. That leasing is even being considered is surprising.

The Wilderness Society is adamantly opposed to any oil and gas leasing in the proposed Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness. However, your Alternative 1 does not go far enough. We would propose an Alternative 6: No oil and gas leasing permitted in the Lincoln National Forest south of Forest Road 68.

Please send me a copy of all the material you sent on this. Also please send a copy to:

Peter Kirby
Staff Attorney
The Wilderness Society
1901 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20006

I would also appreciate the following information as soon as possible:

1. What is the relation of this oil & gas leasing and the deletion of 3000 acres in the wilderness recommendation for the Southern Guads in S 2583?

2. A copy of the mailing list for the original May 15 letter.

I preparing the EAR, I would urge you to keep in mind the impact such leasing would have on Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns National Parks, and the fact that North McKittrick Canyon (where there are pending lease applications) receivd attention in the Senate Committe Report (89th Congress Report # 1682) accompanying HR 698 (establishing Guadalupe Mountains National Park). That report directed the Forest Service to preserve North McKittrick Canyon in as natural a condition as possible. Clearly, oil & gas leasing in this incredibly rugged area would be in direct conflict with that directive. (Copy enclosed.)

Furthermore, I would recommend that if you do propose to allow oil & gas leasing in the area, that you plan to prepare a full environmental impact statement.

Thank you for your help on this. I may have further comments after I receive a copy of your May 15 letter.

Sincerely

Dave Foreman
Southwest Representative

cc: Hon. Pete V. Domenici
Hon. Jack Schmitt
Hon. Harold Runnels
M. J. Hassell, Regional Forester
Max Peterson, Chief USFS
Peter Kirby
Wesley Leonard
Jim Stewart
Harold Walling
Brant Calkin

The areas labeled AA through LL on the map on the [illegible] Service proposal recommended by conservation organization. In many cases these additions incorporate a large portion or all of areas which the Forest Service proposes to exclude from the existing Gila Wilderness or Gila Primitive Area.

Addition AA - 20,210 acres N.F. land + 160 acres private land

The Forest Service proposes to exclude this large section (Exclusion 5) of the Gila Primitive Area from the new Gila Wilderness because of an unsatisfactory boundary and human intrusions. We are opposed to its exclusion on the following grounds.

1. SIZE: This area is larger, by itself, than some designated Wilderness Areas. In a time of spiraling demand for wilderness and less and less potential Wilderness Areas; when permits are required for California Wilderness Areas and are being seriously considered for Northern New Mexico Wilderness Areas; we cannot afford to eliminate such a tract as Tom Moore Canyon for poorly founded reasons.

2. HISTORY: This area was orginally protected in 1924 as part of the Gila Wilderness. We seriously question the wisdom of excluding an area protected for 50 years. The fact that the Forest Service says that this area has lost its wilderness character since being protected as a Primitive Area by the USFS does not speak very highly of the wilderness management of the Forest Service.

3. HUMAN INTRUSIONS:

a. There are two motorized wells and four steel rim tanks in this area by special permit. We do not, however, find them to be sufficient evidence of man's activity to disqualify this area as wilderness.

b. The 17 miles of jeep trail are rapidly reverting to a natural condition and in many cases have completely grown over and cannot be found. At the worst, the jeep trail appears as two parallel foot paths in the grass. With continued closure and enlightened management they will disappear; this is gentle country and in no cases have long-lasting ruts been cut into the ground.

c. 1680 acres of juniper around Middle Mesa was cabeled 20 years ago in 1951-52 while part of a designated Primitive Area. This desecration of the Wilderness should have not been allowed. The affected area looks like a natural meadow and debris from the operation is very scarce. The area probably should remain in wilderness-type protection.

4. BOUNDARY: Because of the gentle eastern border along the Primitive Area here, the USFS claims that it is impossible to prevent vehicle entry or to protect the wilderness values even though barriers have been erected. In actual fact, less than half a dozen violations have occurred since closure in 1967. We do not see an insoluble management problem and certainly no reason 'to cure the headache by chopping off the head.' The Conservationist's Proposal is mainly on topographic features that can be identified on the ground. A narrow strip is added to the north and east to put the boundary on these topo features and the northeastern corner of the Primitive Area is eliminated for the same reasons. This proposal contains a geographic whole in contrast to the gerrymandered proposal of the Forest Service.

In contrast with the Forest Service's description of Exclusion 5, we feel that man's imprint is both a minor and transient factor here and that with continued protection and proper management even these few small traces of man will disappear. The general character of the area is overwhelmingly wilderness and considering the nearly total lack of present human use offers an opportunity for a wilderness experience of real solitude. This area of gentle canyons, rolling grassy hills dotted with oak and juniper, prairie dog towns, and pronghorn is special in the Wilderness System and should be added to the Gila Wilderness.

Addition BB - 38,030 acres N.F. land + 120 acres private land

The Forest Service proposes to exclude 36,137 acres of the existing Primitive Area (Exclusion 6) because of human intrusions and erosion problems. We have looked over nearly the entire reason and are completely opposed to the exclusion for these reasons:

1. SIZE: Same as for Addition AA but even more so in view of its even larger size.

2. HISTORY: Same as for Addition AA.

3. HUMAN INTRUSIONS:

a. There are 16.8 miles of old jeep trail here that are closed and reverting and are not serious scars on the wilderness. The situation is comparable to that in Addition AA.

b. During 1906-1910 some mining for meerschaum occurred the southwest corner of this area. Very little evidence of this now remains, certainly not to the extent the Forest Service claims. If there are especially objectionable features here, they can be removed and scarcely any sign would remain. This area, the small and beautiful Meerschaum Canyon, is one of the truly remarkable scenic gems in the Gila country and should continue its protection.

c. Before designation of the Gila National Forest in 1899 scattered logging on some 260 acres occurred in the meerschaum mine area in conjunction with the early mining. It is difficult to find evidence of this 75 year old cutting and if one does not know to search for it, it is unnoticeable.

4. EROSION: This factor is the Forest Service's main argument for the elimination of this nearly 40,000 acre unit from the Wilderness. According to the USFS, siltation resulting from the erosion of cliffs of Gila Conglomerate rock in this area is shortening the life of Lake Roberts to the south. To prevent this the Forest Service believes that they need to enter the area with motorized equipment and construct silt retaining structures. There is no way to stop the erosion itself. In actuality, instead of involving the entire area the problem exists only in a small area close to Lake Roberts. The only bad streambed cutting occurs in the mouths of Rocky and Railroad Canyons and the conservationists' proposal eliminates these areas to give the Forest Service latitude in combatting this situation. This erosion is natural, has been going on for millenia, and has created the fine canyons of the Gila its most famous feature. Both Lake Roberts and this part of the Gila Primitive Area can be had, but I must question the alacrity on the part of the USFS to throw away 36,000 acres of fine wilderness country on behalf of a $750,000 artificial lake.

5. BOUNDARY: The conservationists' proposal places the wilderness boundary on topographic features all around this area. As a whole it is a much more natural unit than the Forest Service's. Again, as in Addition AA, we feel that the USFS overestimates the imprint of man's influence on this area. This influence is a minor and transient factor and the area is definitely affected primarily by the forces of nature. Extremely little use is made of the area at present and it offers true solitude. Its very lovely small canyons from Meerschaum to [illegible]

Addition CC - 1,640 acres N.F. land

This addition would retain portions of Forest Service proposed Exclusions 7 and 3-3, which are of an unquestioned wilderness character. We feel that an acceptable boundary can be located closer to the developments along Highway 15. The undeveloped portions of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument should also be made a part of the Wilderness. They were included within the Gila Wilderness prior to it being transferred to the National Park Service.

Addition DD - 610 acres N.F. land

This addition would retain several other sections of Exclusions 7 and 3-3 proposed by the Forest Service. They would add about 1 mile of the Gila River in an area that is definitely of wilderness quality.

Addition EE - 9,840 acres N.F. land

We strongly concur in the Forest Service proposed Addition 6 of the 3,165 acre Sapillo Creek area to the Gila Wilderness. However, there is another 10,000 acres of excellent de facto wilderness south of this addition in the upper parts of Trout Creek and Sheep Corral Canyon below Sheep Corral Canyon Road. This country certainly should be added to the Gila Wilderness.

Addition FF - 400 acres N.F. land

In this area where the Gila River leaves the Wilderness, conservationists draw their boundary to include slightly more than does the Forest Service. This entire area was originally part of the Gila Wilderness but was eliminated in 1944 to permit flourspar mining. Those parts of this old exclusion that still retain their wilderness character should be reunited with the rest of the Wilderness.

Addition GG - 2,080 acres N.F. land

This includes the 607 acre Exclusion 7-7, the largest single exclusion of the Gila Wilderness itself proposed by the USFS. Exclusions of areas in the National Wilderness Preservation System established by Congress in the 1964 Wilderness Act is a very bad precedent setting policy. If they are not secure in their protection then what assurance do we have that any Wilderness will remain. Moreover, this is an area of fine riparian vegetation that should be preserved. Although it is generally agreeable that Wilderness boundaries should be on topographic features, this is a special case. The present Wilderness boundary is one and the same with the Gila National Forest border on a legal subdivision line. This boundary is fenced. Moving the Wilderness boundary back creates only two boundaries to be enforced and leaves the Forest border still on a section line. We feel that the better way is to leave both boundaries on the present line. This addition would also move the Wilderness boundary down to the Gila River.

Addition HH - 8,460 acres N.F. land

In this area around the western end of the Gila Wilderness, conservationists again drew their boundary on different topographic features than does the Forest Service in order to include more country of fine wilderness quality. By drawing our line on lower topographic features and including more lower country de facto wilderness, the excellent high country of the Mogollon Mountains is far better protected. The Conservationists' Proposal contains a corridor to exclude the mining activity in Little Whitewater Canyon. The addition would retain as wilderness all of Forest Service Exclusions 12 and 11-11.

Addition II - 680 acres N.F. land + 10 acres private land

This small addition would incorporate that portion of Whitewater Creek above the Catwalk. Its addition would protect the wilderness experience of the many persons who hike in this area.

Addition JJ - 1,290 acres N.F. land

Our boundary here would differ from that of the Forest Service in that it is located parallel to Highway 78 rather than on the ridge to the south. The land is of undeniable wilderness character.

Addition KK - 4,680 acres N.F. land

Conservationists most strongly oppose the uncalled-for large exclusion here (Exclusions 14 and 15). This is a superb area of open grass and quite a rare vegetative type for a Wilderness Area. The slight difficulty of administering the border is no reason for excluding this area. The jeep trails and an old landing field are no longer used and have pretty much reverted to a natural condition. Aeroplane Mesa in the southern corner of Addition KK is quite famous historically as the site for Gen. Claire Chennault's (of WWII Flying Tiger fame) early 1930's crash landing.

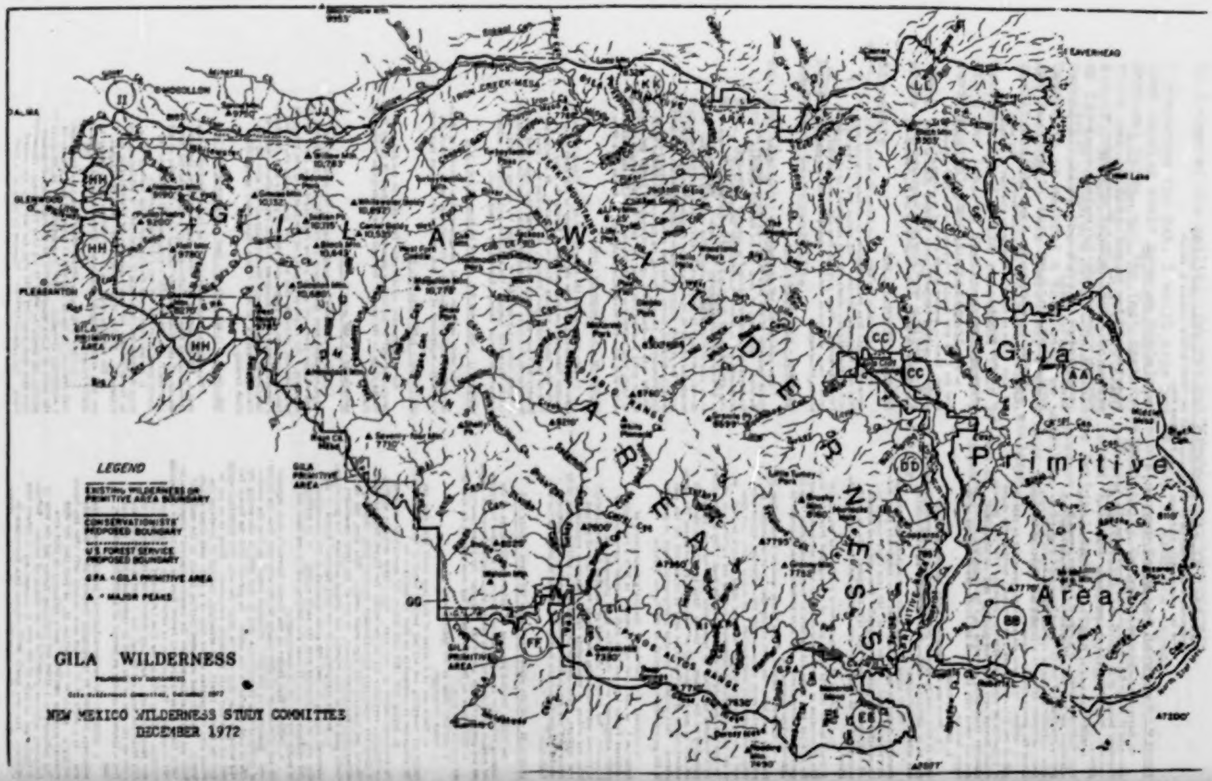
Addition LL - 11,420 acres N.F. land + 80 acres private land

This addition would retain all of Forest Service Exclusions 1, 1-1 and part of 16. These exclusions from the Primitive Area and from the Wilderness are proposed by the USFS because of the Black Mountain Lookout Site, 2.3 miles of old jeep trail, and the need for a topographical boundary. We oppose these exclusions for the following reasons:

1. Administrative and fire lookout sites such as is on Black Mountain are specifically authorized in Wilderness Areas by the Wilderness Act when necessary for administering the Wilderness. If this site is necessary, it is permissable.

2. The old jeep trail up to the lookout is no longer in use and, with continued closure and proper management, should easily revert.

3. Instead of bringing the boundary back to a topographical feature, it can be extended to bring in more country of a wilderness character. There is approximately 10,000 acres to the north of Black Mountain that is of excellent wilderness quality and should be added to the Gila Wilderness. Conservationists have been proposing this area for addition for several years. The conservationists' boundary by being at a lower


LEGEND
EXISTING WILDERNESS OR PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY
CONSERVATIONISTS' PROPOSED BOUNDARY
U.S. FOREST SERVICE PROPOSED BOUNDARY
G.P.A. = GILA PRIMITIVE AREA
▲ = MAJOR PEAKS
GILA WILDERNESS
Gila Primitive Area
GILA PRIMITIVE AREA
GLENWOOD
PLEASANTON
MOGOLLON
AA
BB
CC
DD
EE
FF
GG
HH
II
JJ
KK
LL

GILA WILDERNESS

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1972

Senator DOMENICI. Mr. Hardie.

STATEMENT OF LeBRON HARDIE, CHAIRMAN, EL PASO WILDERNESS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE, EL PASO, TEX.

Mr. HARDIE. My name is LeBron Hardie, and I am from El Paso, Tex.

First of all, the people at El Paso are very interested in what happens in New Mexico with the national forest, and I have some letters here that people asked me to bring and submit to you and I would like to do that at this time.

I also prepared a statement which was submitted earlier and I would like for that to be part of the record, and I would like to summarize it here now.

Senator DOMENICI. The statement will be made a part of the record.

Are those the letters?

Mr. HARDIE. Yes, sir.

Senator DOMENICI. The staff will take those and they will be made a part of the file.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HARDIE. As I say, I an from El Paso, Tex., and the population of El Paso is now estimated to be a half million people. Sometimes El Pasoans jokingly say that we are the biggest city in New Mexico, because we go into New Mexico, particularly southern New Mexico, so much for recreation, and culturally and geographically we really have more in common with you folks from New Mexico than we do with a lot of parts of Texas.

We feel that the people in El Paso and a lot of other Texans from places like Lubbock and Midland and Amarillo and various parts of western Texas have a real interest in what happens in the national forests of New Mexico, and I think in the Lincoln National Forest, particularly, and so I would like to restrict myself to the Lincoln from here on out.

People go there for all kinds of recreation. It is not all wilderness recreation, but there is a large number of people in El Paso that do participate in various kinds of wilderness recreations in the Lincoln as well as the Gila.

We have also had a history in El Paso particularly of participating in the land use management processes. A lot of us were involved in RARE I and RARE II.

We are currently involved in the BLM wilderness review program.

So being here today is a continuation of that interest and that participation, and not something new for us. We are concerned about the amount of wilderness presently available in the Lincoln, and we are even more concerned about whether there will be enough wilderness for future generations.

The desire for wilderness has been going up for some time, and that is reflected in statistics about the sale of things like backpacks and hiking shoes, and there doesn't seem to be any end to it.

So we are concerned. We know the population in the Southwest is going to increase, and we think it is pretty clear that the need for wilderness will continue to increase.

So we are really concerned about whether or not there is going to be enough wilderness for tbe kind of population that we are going to have in the Southwest in the years to come.

I have looked at the bill, and it seems to me that it preserves too little in the way of wilderness and it opens too much wilderness for development. The bill in the Lincoln National Forest would provide about 73,000 acres of wilderness and it would release 118,000 acres, and when you read section 5, you get the distinct impression that the areas that are released are all but out for any kind of future contention as additions to the wilderness system, because the hurdles are too many and too high.

I would like to run through some areas in the Lincoln and quickly comment on what we don't like about the provisions. We have existing wilderness in the White Mountains Wilderness and two things are done there by the bill.

First, 990 acres is cut out by the bill when the Forest Service has designated it for further planning, and they have done that because they want to study that further before they come to a decision, and I think that they ought to be given that chance.

And then it cuts another 500 acres out—that doesn't sound like much, but the White Mountain Wilderness is a relatively small wilderness, and every acre counts there, particularly in light of the development going on around it. In the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness, there is a cut of 3,000 acres.

That is an important 3,000 acres, because most of it covers North McKittrick Canyon. That is in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and this area that you have cut out there would take in the northern part of North McKittrick. That is a very ecologically sensitive area, and I am sure that the Park Service would say that they would definitely rather have that in wilderness so that the whole drainage can be protected.

We have not been able to find out why that was cut out. The only thing we do know is that there is an application for an oil and gas lease on that area, and so the assumption at this point, without any further information, is that you all have made the decision that it is more important to hunt for oil and gas right now than it is to protect the ecological values.

The next area is the Sacramento escarpment, which is a further planning area. You have released that altogether. That would be 43,000 acres. Another further planning area, 25,000 acres, Little Dog and Buck Canyon, would be released.

Six other areas are released. So in the Lincoln, out of about 199,000 acres of potential wilderness, your bill would release 118,000, and we feel like it is just too little preservation and too much development.

I think this bill falls way short of satisfying the intent of Congress to assemble a national wilderness system which would do justice to this country's people and to their wilderness heritage.

Thank you.

Senator **Domenici**. Thank you very much.

Senator Schmitt, do you have any questions?

Senator **Schmitt**. What portion of the population of the area you indicated do you think uses the wilderness areas at the present time, and what is the rate of growth of that usage?

Do you have any feeling for that at all?

Mr. **Hardie**. Do you mean how many El Pasoans, Texans?

Senator **Schmitt**. Yes.

Mr. **Hardie**. I don't know what the statistics on use would be. I know a lot of people that do a lot of backpacking in the Lincoln and Gila and I know every time I go to those areas I run into people from El Paso, so I assume from that that it is a pretty widespread practice.

Senator **Schmitt**. Is your committee a large group or is it a working committee or what?

Mr. **Hardie**. It is a group made up from people belonging to the Sierra Club of El Paso, a group of around 250 people. There are wilderness society members and there are a lot of people who are not members of any particular conservation organization.

They are interested in wilderness and backpacking and the other things you do in wilderness. In RARE II we got a lot of these people together and said, let's really have some kind of participation, and help the impact on this process.

That is when the committee was formed, and we have hung together ever since.

[The prepared statement and attachments submitted by Mr. Hardie follow:]

TESTIMONY OF
LEBRON HARDIE
CHAIRMAN OF EL PASO WILDERNESS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
ON S. 2583
A BILL TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST LANDS
IN NEW MEXICO
AS ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM
BEFORE THE
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES
May 29, 1980

Mr. Chairman: My name is LeBron Hardie. I am 42 years old and have lived in El Paso most of my life. I have been going to National Forests in southern New Mexico, the Gila and the Lincoln, since I was a small boy. Some of my best childhood memories have to do with family vacations at a summer cabin in Ruidoso, and with camping and fishing trips with my father and brother in the trout streams at Ruidoso, and at Bonita Lake outside Ruidoso in the White Mountains where the Sierra Blanca Ski Area and the White Mountains Wilderness are located. I remember outings to Cloudcroft in the Sacremento Mountains to picnic and hike in the forests, and to sled in the snow. As a schoolboy I was a camper, and later a counselor, at the YMCA summer camp in the Sacramentos. Since returning from law school 13 years ago and getting involved in wilderness preservation, I've been on numerous backpack and wilderness study trips in wilderness areas in the Lincoln National Forest. I've used and enjoyed these areas with family and friends a long time and I'm here now because I've experience these areas firsthand and realize what good times they offer; and I feel that S. 2583, which is titled the "New Mexico Wilderness Act," would be more of an anti-wilderness bill, a commercial development bill, than a wilderness bill with its true purpose being to preserve what is left in New Mexico of one of the country's most precious resources--wilderness.

My initial understanding of what the bill was going to do was that it would add to the National Wilderness Preservation System those areas and acreages in New Mexico which had been recommended for wilderness classification by the Forest Service as the result of RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II). Later, when I read the bill, I was disappointed at how little it would do for preservation and how much it would do for the development of such areas. I recall that when Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, its leading proponent in the Senate was a Senator from New Mexico, Clinton Anderson. I believe that the wisdom reflected in the Wilderness Act is lacking in this bill, which fails in two basic ways. It fails to take into account that de-wildernizing an area by development is an irreversible act, whereas preserving the wilderness character is not. And it fails to take into account what additional wilderness future generations will need.

The Wilderness Act sets out Congressional policy on wilderness so well:

> "In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States...it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

When you compare the provisions of S. 2583 to the statement of policy in the Wilderness Act, it becomes clear that S. 2583 is in substantial conflict with that policy.

The forest I know best in New Mexico is the Lincoln, which contains 1,103,145 acres. The majority of the users of the Lincoln are Texans rather than New Mexicans. People in El Paso and other parts of Texas mostly recreate in the forests of southern New Mexico, and particularly in the Lincoln National Forest. A weekend in the Ruidoso area would show you that there are more Texas license plates on cars than New Mexico plates. El Paso, with a population now of approximately 500,000, is the largest urban area served by the Lincoln. Attached is a graphic titled "Easy Accessibility to Over a Million People" which was prepared earlier this year in connection with the Sacramento Escarpment Wilderness (FS No. 072) in the Lincoln, using Alamogordo as the center, which graphic shows that the area can be reached by well over a million people within less than 4 hours driving time. It shows that El Pasoans have to drive only 86 miles, and that there are well over a half million people within less than 2 hours of driving. Of course, many Texans are going to the Lincoln from farther away. Attached is another graphic titled "Population Areas of Influence." Businesses in New Mexico are happy about this tourism and sell alot of goods and services to these Texans. Texans and New Mexicans go to the Lincoln for many kinds of enjoyment, including the various kinds of wilderness recreations such as fishing, cross-country skiing, hunting, backpacking, camping, hiking, and photography. Federal agencies know about Texans recreating in New Mexico. Whenever they schedule public hearings or meetings on lands in New Mexico, they always include El Paso, which is well known for its large, pro-wilderness turnouts at such meetings. Attached are copies of 5 letters, one from every member of the Texas State legislative delegation from El Paso, which were sent to the Forest

Service during RARE II in support of new wilderness areas in southern New Mexico. These wilderness areas belong to the people of the United States; people in places like El Paso, Lubbock and Midland, and Seattle, Indianapolis and Atlanta have an interest in these areas as potential additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System. These areas are Federal areas and there are Federal interests at stake, and I am hopeful that Congress will protect these national interests.

In being here today, I feel representative of the many Texans and others who feel that they have as much at stake as anyone in what is done with the National Forests in New Mexico. I know that many of us in El Paso participated in the Forest Service's RARE I and RARE II processes for New Mexico, and are currently participating in the BLM's wilderness review program for New Mexico. Being here today is a continuance of that participation. One of the areas covered by this bill is the Guadalupe Excarpment which is known not only to New Mexicans and Texans, but internationally to geologists and biologists.

Attached is a chart which shows by acreage comparisons the adverse impact this bill would have on wilderness areas in the Lincoln National Forest. The El Paso Wilderness Preservation Committee ((EPWPC) has identified 199,180 acres of wilderness. The Forest Service (FS) has recommended 77,000 acres of this for wilderness, plus an additional 69,640 acres for "Further Planning". This bill, however, recommends only 73,500 acres for wilderness-- deleting, totally, eight areas containing

118,190 acres, and reducing the three most important areas by 7,490 critical acres, primarily in a very fragile portion of the Guadalupe Escarpment.

I want to discuss two wilderness areas in the Lincoln National Forest to show how much damage to the wilderness resource this bill would do.

First, the Guadalupe Escarpment, where the Forest Service is recommending 21,000 acres for wilderness, and conservationists substantially the same. This bill would cut 2,240 acres out of one of the most critical portions of the Escarpment, ecologically, the North McKittrick Canyon drainage. Initially, the reason for such reduction was a mystery. Later, however, when it was learned that an application for an oil and gas lease covering this same acreage had been filed with the Forest Service, the motivation became apparent. Attached is a Forest Service map with the lease area outlined with a heavy black line at which area no. one is pointed. Two other areas totaling 760 acres are deleted by this bill for oil and gas and similarly shown on the map. This 3,000 acre reduction for the mere possibility of finding oil and gas is a good example of why many New Mexicans, Texans and others often refer to this bill as the "New Mexico Anti-Wilderness Act." The Guadalupe Escarpment is of international significance and reputation. It is the largest exposed fossil reef in the world, an invaluable place for scientific study. Additionally, the plant life associations in the Escarpment present a unique mixture of that which is found in the Rocky Mountains and that which is found in Chihuahuan desert. Some of these plants are directly dependent on McKittrick Canyon, which includes North McKittrick Canyon, for the tenuous year-round water which is so critical to the plants and animals.

The Guadalupe Escarpment involves two states, New Mexico and Texas; two National Parks, Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains; and three Federal agencies, the Park Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. In May, 1977 President Carter in his Environmental Protection Message proposed an enlarged and unified Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness which would consist of wilderness units in the two National Parks, and a wilderness unit in the Forest Service and BLM lands in between the Parks. Then in October, 1978 the Forest Service proposed a 21,000 acre wilderness (to which the BLM would add 1,800 acres for a total of 22,800 acres) which would link the units in the two Parks and create a unified escarpment wilderness. This plan represents the consensus of the FS, the BLM, the PS, the President, conservation organizations, and many others. Attached is a document (6 pages) titled "Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness" which shows the conservationists' proposal in 1971, and which contains a good map of the whole Escarpment. Also attached is part of a document (4 pages, including 2 maps) titled "Lincoln National Forest" which shows the joint Forest Service-BLM proposal. The Forest Service in another part of such document said that as existing oil and gas leases expired, they would not be renewed, and that new leases would not be issued.

This huge exposed reef we call the Guadalupe Escarpment is also famous for its hundreds of discovered and undiscovered caves, the most famous of which is Carlsbad Caverns. This escarpment is one of the best wild cave areas in the country, if not the world.

The second wilderness area I want to talk about, as another example of how adverse this bill would be to the wilderness resource in the Lincoln

National Forest, is the Sacramento Escarpment where the Forest Service is recommending 42,730 acres for "Further Planning" ("FP"), and conservationists substantially the same. I am very familiar with this area, having worked for 7 years for wilderness designation for this area. I have made numerous field trips into the area, and have submitted various reports and maps from time to time to the Forest Service and the BLM.

The Sacramento Escarpment wilderness contains 47,215 acres (combination of FS, 43,400 acres, and BLM, 3,775 acres). Immediately to the south is the Culp Canyon wilderness which contains 16,880 acres (combination of BLM, 12,060 acres, and FS, 4,820 acres). The Sacramento Escarpment-Culp Canyon wilderness complex contains 64,095 acres.

This bill, in Sec. 5, would all but insure that the Sacramento Escarpment would never be designated as wilderness, but would be stripped of its current interim protection and opened for non-wilderness uses. And this despite the fact that the Forest Service and the BLM have recently agreed to conduct a joint wilderness study of the Sacramento Escarpment. This bill would take out of contention for wilderness designation a ruggedly beautiful wilderness of 47,215 acres only 86 miles from El Paso with a population of 500,000 urbanites, a large number of whom are wilderness recreationists.

Let me conclude by repeating the statement of Congressional policy which has been followed now for 15 years:

> "In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States...it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

Mr. Chairman, this bill falls way short of satisfying the intent of Congress to assemble a national wilderness system which will do justice to this country's people, and to their wilderness heritage.

Easy Accessibility to Over a Million People

More than 1,000,000 people will be within less than 4 hours driving time of the 64,095-acre wilderness recreation complex consisting of the Sacramento Escarpment Wilderness (47,215 acres) and the Culp Canyon Wilderness (16,880 acres).

Both wilderness areas will be complimented by the interpretive facilities of the Oliver Lee Memorial State Park located at the mouth of historic Dog Canyon.

The chart below shows this accessibility. The population figures used are from the 1970 census and would now be significantly higher. Also, the figures do not include people who live outside the cities shown, but who do live within the 4-hour area of accessibility to the complex. Thus, well over a million people in New Mexico and Texas will be within weekend reach of these areas.

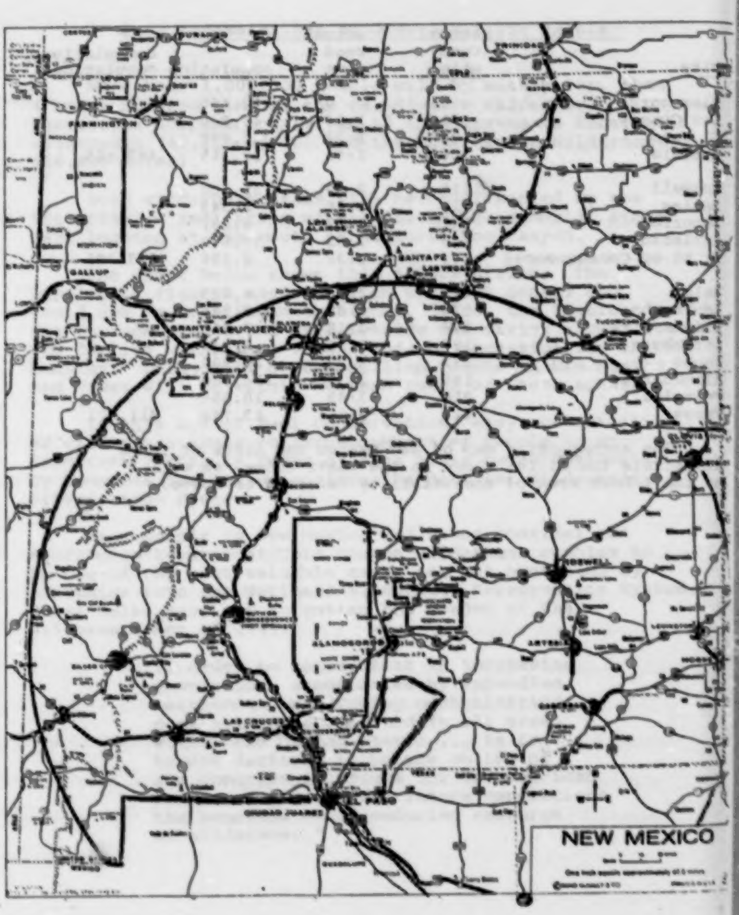
In this age of fuel conservation, easy accessibility of wilderness areas to large numbers of people is an important factor in favor of such areas being designated by Congress for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Many people in New Mexico and Texas consider the Sacramento Escarpment/Culp Canyon wilderness complex to be one of the most valuable areas not yet protected by inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. These folks have not forgotten the wisdom of the Wilderness Act of 1964:

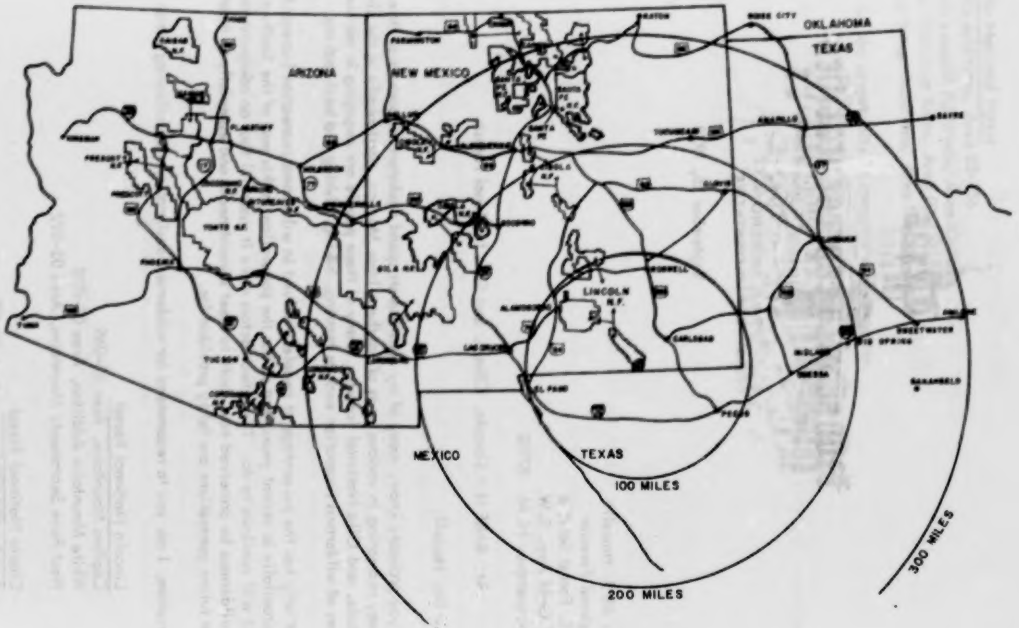
> "In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States ... it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

city	actual road miles	actual road time	population	cummulative population
Alamogordo	0	0	22,400	
Las Cruces	71	1:17	47,200	
El Paso	86	1:34	370,000	
Artesia	106	1:55	10,315	449,915
Roswell	118	2:09	35,500	
Deming	127	2:18	8,343	
Socorro	131	2:23	4,687	
Carlsbad	140	2:33	20,600	
Truth or Consequences	141	2:34	4,656	523,701
Belen	169	3:04	4,823	
Lovington	170	3:05	8,915	
Silver City	174	3:10	7,751	
Lordsburg	187	3:24	3,429	
Hobbs	192	3:29	24,900	
Albuquerque	199	3:37	314,000	
Portales	210	3:49	10,554	
Pecos	219	3:59	13,748	911,821

The accompanying map of New Mexico and parts of Texas illustrate the cities shown in the chart above, as well as the 4-hour area of accessibility referred to above.


DURANGO
TRINIDAD
FARMINGTON
GALLUP
SANTA FE
LAS VEGAS
GRANTS
ALBUQUERQUE
ROSWELL
ALAMOGORDO
ARTESIA
CARLSBAD
LAS CRUCES
EL PASO
CIUDAD JUAREZ
NEW MEXICO

POPULATION AREAS OF INFLUENCE


OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
BOISE CITY
RATON
FARMINGTON
FLAGSTAFF
AMARILLO
SAYRE
TUCUMCARI
SANTA FE
CLOVIS
LUBBOCK
ROSWELL
LINCOLN N.F.
ALAMOGORDO
CARLSBAD
LAS CRUCES
EL PASO
PECOS
ODESSA
MIDLAND
BIG SPRING
SWEETWATER
ABILENE
SAN ANGELO
GILA N.F.
TONTO N.F.
PHOENIX
TUCSON
PRESCOTT N.F.
KINGMAN
YUMA
MEXICO
TEXAS
100 MILES
200 MILES
300 MILES

Texas
House of Representatives
PAUL MORENO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

September 28, 1978

Mr. M. J. Hassell
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S. W.
Albuquerque, N. M. 87102

Re: RARE II – Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests

Dear Mr. Hassell:

As you probably know, many of my constituents spend a substantial amount of time and money recreating in various parts of Southern New Mexico, particularly in the Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests. Many of these people are engaging in various types of wilderness recreation such as hunting, hiking, fishing and backpacking.

Not only has the percentage of people involved in wilderness recreation increased substantially in recent years, but so has the population in this part of the Southwest, as it will continue to do. These two factors make it essential that an adequate amount of wilderness be preserved now, both to meet current needs and especially to assure that future generations are fairly provided for.

Therefore, I ask you to recommend for wilderness designation the following areas:

Lincoln National Forest
Capitan Mountains, Area 03-069
White Mountains Addition, Area 03-070
West Face Sacramento Mountains, Area 03-072

Cibola National Forest
Apache Kid Wilderness, Area 03-013

Gila National Forest
Gila Additions, Area 03-156
Aldo Leopold Additions, Area 03-162
San Francisco River, Area 03-139
Blue Range Additions, Area 03-166

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Moreno

The Senate of
The State of Texas
Austin 78711

September 29, 1978

Mr. M. J. Hassell
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Re: RARE II - Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests

Dear Mr. Hassell:

As you probably know, many of my constituents spend a substantial amount of time and money recreating in various parts of Southern New Mexico, particularly in the Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests. Many of these people are engaging in various types of wilderness recreation such as hunting, hiking, fishing, and backpacking.

Not only has the percentage of people involved in wilderness recreation increased substantially in recent years, but so has the population in this part of the Southwest, as it will continue to do. These two factors make it essential that an adequate amount of wilderness be preserved now, both to meet current needs and especially to assure that future generations are fairly provided for.

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Apache Kid Wilderness, Area 03-013

Gila National Forest
Gila Additions, Area 03-156
Aldo Leopold Additions, Area 03-162
San Francisco River, Area 03-139
Blue Range Additions, Area 03-166

Page 2.
Mr. M. J. Hassell
Regional Forester
September 29, 1978

Thanking you for the opportunity to comment on this matter, I remain,

Very truly yours,

H. TATI SANTIESTEBAN

HTS:yn

cc: Mr. James Abbott
Forest Supervisor, Lincoln National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
Federal Building
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

Mr. Keith Pfefferle
Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest
U. S. Forest Service
10309 Candelaria N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Mr. Robert Williamson
Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest
2610 N. Silver St.
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Mr. LeBron Hardie
409 Stotts Road
El Paso, Texas 79932

The State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin, Texas

September 27, 1978

Mr. M. J. Hassell
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

RE: RARE II - Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests

Dear Mr. Hassell,

This letter is written to ask that you recommend for Wilderness Designation the following areas:

Lincoln National Forest
Capitan Mountains, Area 03-069
White Mountains Addition, Area 03-070
West Face Sacramento Mountains, Area 03-072

Cibola National Forest
Apache Kid Wilderness, Area 03-013

Gila National Forest
Gila Additions, Area 03-156
Aldo Leopold Additions, Area 03-162
San Francisco River, Area 03-139
Blue Range Additions, Area 03-166

Inasmuch as I represented the entire County of El Paso for a period of four years and am now embarking on a second term representing a single member district within the County, I have had the opportunity to discuss with many of my constituents the importance of these wilderness recreation areas. Hunting, hikin fishing and backpacking are common forms of usage for the Lincol Cibola, and Gila National Forests.

I think you should be aware that the West Texas-Southern New Mexico southwest has substantially increased in population and the projections are that it will continue to grow at a rate faster than the national average. Many of us are convinced that any failure in setting aside an adequate amount of wilderness area to be preserved would be short-sighted. My concern is not only for the current needs but to guarantee that future generati

Page Two
To: M. J. Hassell
September 27, 1978

will have an opportunity to enjoy these beautiful areas.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to express my views and that of many persons I have represented over the years.

Very truly yours,

RONALD D. COLEMAN

RDC/tsv

cc: Mr. James Abbott
Forest Supervisor,
Lincoln National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
Federal Building
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

Mr. Keith Pfefferle
Forest Supervisor,
Cibola National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
10309 Candelaria N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Mr. Robert Williamson
Forest Supervisor,
Gila National Forest
2610 N. Silver St.
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin

September 27, 1978

Mr. M. J. Hassell
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Re: RARE II - Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests

Dear Mr. Hassell:

As you probably know, many of my constituents spend a substantial amount of time and money recreating in various parts of Southern New Mexico, particularly in the Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests. Many of these people are engaging in various types of wilderness recreation such as hunting, hiking, fishing, and backpacking.

Not only has the percentage of people involved in wilderness recreation increased substantially in recent years, but so has the population in this part of the Southwest, as it will continue to do. These two factors make it essential that an adequate amount of wilderness be preserved now, both to meet current needs and especially to assure that future generations are fairly provided for.

Therefore, I ask you to recommend for wilderness designation the following areas:

Lincoln National Forest
Capitan Mountain, Area 03-069
White Mountain Addition, Area 03-070
West Face Sacramento Mountains, Area 03-072

Cibola National Forest
Apache Kid Wilderness, Area 03-013

Gila National Forest
Gila Additions, Area 03-156
Aldo Leopold Additions, Area 03-162
San Francisco River, Area 03-139
Blue Range Additions, Area 03-166

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Valles
ROBERT (BOB) VALLES

cc: Mr. James Abbott
Forest Supervisor, Lincoln
National Forest
U. S. Forest Service
Federal Building
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

Mr. Keith Pfefferle
Forest Supervisor, Cibola
National Forest
U. S. Forest Service
10309 Candelaria N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87112

Mr. Robert Williamson
Forest Supervisor, Gila
National Forest
2610 N. Silver St.
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

The State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin, Texas

September 12, 1978

Mr. M.J. Hassell
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87102

Re: RARE II--Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests

Dear Mr. Hassell,

As I am sure that you are aware, many people from the El Paso and West Texas areas spend a great deal of time vacationing in many areas of Southern New Mexico specifically in the Lincoln, Cibola, and Gila National Forests. They take part in many types of outdoor recreation such as backpacking, fishing, hiking and hunting.

As the population of the Southwest has increased tremendously in the last several years, so has the amount of people participating in wilderness recreation. Two factors that are so important to these people are that the wilderness areas are designed to meet current needs and still be managed sufficently so that future generations can still enjoy this part of out national heritage.

On behalf of my constituents and the people of Texas, I recommend that the "wilderness" designation be applied to the following are

Lincoln National Forest
Capitan Mountains, Area 03-069
White Mountains Addition, Area 03-070
West Face Sacremento Mountains, Area 03-072

Cibola National Forest
Apache Kid Wilderness, Area 03-013

Gila National Forest
Gila Additions, Area 03-156
Aldo Leopold Additions, Area 03-156
San Fransisco River, Area 03-139
Blue Range Additions, Area 03-166

If ever I can be of any service to you, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Luther Jones

Luther Jones

CC: Mr. James Abbott
Forest Supervisor
Lincoln National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
Federal Building
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310

Mr. Keith Pfefferle
Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
10309 Candelaria, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Mr. Robert Williamson
Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest
2610 North Silver Street
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

LJ/jc

The State of Texas
House of Representatives
Austin, Texas

September 28, 1978

Re: RARE III

Dear Mr. Hassell:

I want to express my personal support for the proposal to increase the areas set aside as natural wilderness areas.

My observations are based upon my own feelings about these areas and I do not want to misrepresent my position by purpor ing to be expressing the views of my constituents. I know, however, that many people from West Texas do enjoy these Wilderness areas in New Mexico and Arizona for recreational purposes.

The sites that I wish to recommend to you for consideration as wilderness areas are:

1. Capitan Mountains, Area 3-069
2. White Mountains Wilderness Addition, Area 3-070
3. West Face Sacramento Mountains, Area 3-72
4. Apache Kid Wilderness Area, Area 3-013
5. Gila Wilderness Addition, Area 3-156
6. Aldo Leopold Addition, Area 3-162
7. San Francisco River, Area 3-139
8. Blue Range Addition, Area 3-166

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

S. L. Abbott

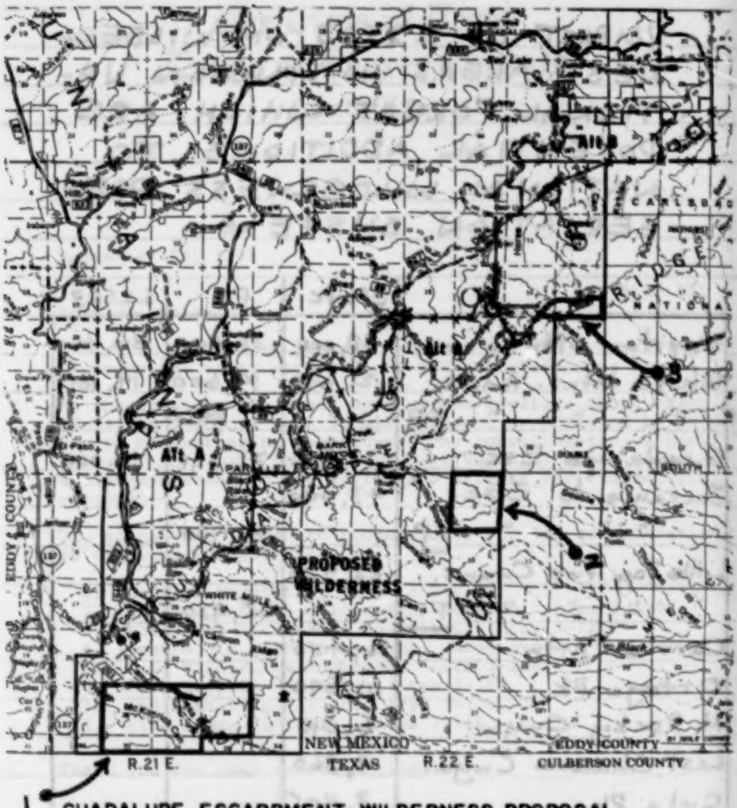
S.L. Abbott

Mr. M. J. Hassell
Regional Forester, Reg. III
United States Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S. W.
Albuquerque, N. M. 87102

SLA/sb

IMPACT OF S.2583 ON WILDERNESS AREAS IN LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST WHICH ARE POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

	EPWPC	FS	S.2583
Capitan Mtns.	38,000	36,400	36,400
White Mtns. Adds.	21,690	19,600	19,100
" " " FP		990	
Guadalupe Esc.	21,300	21,000	18,000
Sacramento Esc.	43,440		
" " FP		42,780	
Little Dog, Pup Cnyns.	25,920		
" " " " FP		25,920	
Carrizo Mtn.	16,450		
Ortega Pk.	10,890		
N. Rocky Cnyn.	6,810		
Last Chance Cnyn.	9,860		
Culp Pk.	3,405		
Grapevine Hills	1,415		
wilderness totals	199,180	77,000	73,500
further planning total		69,640	
	199,180	146,640	73,500


PROPOSED WILDERNESS
Alt A
Alt B
Alt B
CARLSBAD
NATIONAL
EDDY COUNTY
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
R.21 E.
R.22 E.
EDDY COUNTY
CULBERSON COUNTY
1
2
3

GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS PROPOSAL
USE MAP

FENCES
WATER LINES
POWER LINES
STOCK TANKS
TRICK TANKS
CABIN
MINE
TANKS
WELLS
LOOKOUT TOWER
SPRING
PROPOSALS BOUNDRY
TELEPHONE LINE

6/78

GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS

National Park Service Hearings

Saturday, November 20
Municipal Library Annex
Malagueno Park
Carlsbad, New Mexico

9 a.m., Carlsbad Caverns
1 p.m., Guadalupe Mountains

Tuesday, November 23
Holiday Inn
Interstate 10 and Airways Boulevard
6655 Gateway West, near Airport
El Paso, Texas

9 a.m., Guadalupe Mountains
1 p.m., Carlsbad Caverns

The hearing record will remain open for letters until December 23, 1971. Address: Hearing Officer, c/o Superintendent, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, P. O. Box 1598, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220.

The Guadalupe Mountains in southeastern New Mexico and west Texas are the remnants of one of the world's largest limestone barrier reefs, laid down eons ago in a great inland sea. Rising more than 3,000 feet above the plains to the east and south, the Guadalupe Escarpment embraces some of the most ruggedly beautiful scenery in the Southwest. Along this bold escarpment are the Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico and Guadalupe Mountains National Park just across the Texas line.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park centers on one of the largest and most beautiful caves in the world, famous for its immense rooms, decorations and spectacular evening flights of millions of bats from the cave entrance. The entrance area is heavily developed, but beyond is a desert wilderness of high ridges and deeply incised canyons cutting into the Guadalupe Escarpment from the south. Despite its desert vegetation, the wilderness supports a large deer herd and other wildlife. It also has wild caves, unfortunately threatened by vandalism. Guadalupe Mountains National Park includes the highest elevations in Texas. Its conifer-covered plateaus and richly vegetated canyons contrast spectacularly with the stark desert.

While the two national parks protect the ends of the great Guadalupe Escarpment, there is a gap between them (see map.) Fortunately, this area is still undeveloped, and since it is part of Lincoln National Forest it can be protected by adding it to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

PARK SERVICE PROPOSALS

Carlsbad. One wilderness unit of 24,000 acres is proposed out of the park's 46,753 acres. Included is much of the ridge and canyon country at the southwest end of the

---

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
729 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

SIERRA CLUB
1050 Mills Tower
San Francisco, California 94104

park, including Rattlesnake Canyon and Double Canyon. A major exclusion would provide new road access to New Cave and Ogle Cave, both in the mouth of Slaughter Canyon.

Guadalupe Mountains. Of the park's 77,500 acres, the Park Service proposes 39,000 acres as wilderness. This includes most of the rugged high country. Parts of the rim are excluded to provide access (including an aerial tramway) to features the Park Service wishes to make more accessible. Conservationists are particularly pleased that the Park Service proposes to close a number of old jeep trails and include them within this wilderness, a healthy step in the enhancement and restoration of this wilderness area.

CONSERVATIONIST PLAN -- UNIFIED WILDERNESS

Local groups in Texas and New Mexico and national conservation organizations strongly support the Park Service wilderness proposals as far as they go. But substantial additions are desirable not only to encompass the entire wilderness resource of each park but to merge the two park units with intervening Forest Service wild lands to form a magnificent unified Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness.

CARLSBAD. At the northeastern end, the unitary wilderness would encompass the 24,000 acres proposed by the Park Service, together with the following conservationist-recommended additions:

Area A (Slaughter Canyon), 1,800 acres. Park Service planners propose a wild-cave tour experience for New Cave, yet wildness is not assured, as planners propose to exclude the cave and its approach routes from the wilderness. Wild cave trips should be in wilderness surroundings. Conservationists propose a 1 1/2-mile foot trail to the cave, restricting automobile access to the foot of the canyon, a major trail head for the proposed wilderness. There would be a quarter-section exclusion outside the canyon mouth for a parking lot and visitor-orientation facilities. Rough jeep roads in the area should be closed.

Area B (Guadalupe Ridge), 5,500 acres. This addition would bring the wilderness to the north boundary of the park. The primitive jeep trail, if left out of the wilderness, might someday become a public access road piercing the core of the escarpment wilderness. The trail should be restricted to hikers and horses, with only emergency administrative vehicular use.

Area C (Cavern Escarpment). This extends the wilderness along the steep slopes of the Guadalupe Escarpment as far east as water and power lines leading to the developed area at the cavern entrance. The north boundary follows an administrative road to water supply tanks. It includes important wild rim lands along North Rattlesnake Canyon. Areas C and D total 8,500 acres.

Area D (Walnut Canyon). This embraces land north of developed areas and the park road. It would block Park Service plans for a paved "motor nature trail" loop in the upper part of Walnut Canyon. It would also prevent public vehicular use of the first several miles of the jeep road from the water tanks to the north park boundary. The Park Service contends a motor nature trail is desirable to lead away from the development at the cavern entrance those visitors interested in easily accessible desert terrain.

The Service also contends a road is needed to give hunters easy access to deer herds north of the park and thus help control the deer population inside the park. Conservationists generally feel the desirability of a full loop road down Walnut Canyon has not been demonstrated, considering the wild country it would disrupt. Moreover, allowing public use of the first part of the jeep road could ultimately open up roads through the entire proposed Guadalupe Escarpment wilderness.

Area E (buffer zones and private lands), 2,100 acres. In line with standing policy, the Park Service proposes to exclude a 1/8-mile-wide management buffer zone between the park boundary and the wilderness. No specific need for this zone has been cited. Recognizing that plans call for fencing the entire park, conservationists point out that a buffer zone is unnecessary under terms of the Wilderness Act. The Park Service also excludes from its proposal 320 acres of private land along the west park boundary. But the Wilderness Act does not require such an exclusion. Conservationists favor including this tract in the wilderness.

GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS. The Park Service wilderness proposal for Guadalupe Mountains National Park includes only the park uplands. Conservationists believe much additional land below the escarpment rim also should be given wilderness status, with boundaries defined by the exterior boundary of the park, road rights-of-way and similar features. Conservationists favor these additions:

Area F (Western Desert), 26,400 acres. Although abused by past overgrazing, this low desert area in the western part of the park should have wilderness protection. The wilderness system is particularly lacking in such low desert country. Conservationists endorse the Park Service plan to exclude a narrow corridor through this area for road access to the Williams Ranch, thus making accessible the geological features and the ranch itself. However, no further facilities should intrude on the solitude below Guadalupe Peak, highest in Texas.

Area G (Pine Spring Escarpment), 7,500 acres. This area was omitted from the Park Service proposal primarily to allow for construction of a tramway to the crest. Conservation organizations are united in opposing this tramway, primarily because of the intense visitor pressures it would bring on the fragile, ecologically remarkable relict Forest found in the Bowl.

Area H (McKittrick Canyon Corridor), 200 acres. The power line and dilapidated lodge at the end of this corridor should be removed, the Pratt Lodge half way along its length retained as a historical feature, and the entire corridor included within the wilderness. Wilderness designation of this corridor would not conflict with Park Service plans. Visitation to this fragile stream area should be limited, not expanded by installing mechanized transport to bring in large numbers of visitors.

Area I (Coyote Peak), 1,000 acres. This area is excluded by the Park Service to provide for access through the park to water tanks outside the park. Other access should be provided and the area included in the wilderness.

Area J (enclaves and buffer zones), 1,140 acres. Boundary buffer zones are unnecessary and should be included in the wilderness. The Park Service proposes two nine-acre enclaves for minor management structures in the Bowl and a one-acre enclave around a simple brass historical marker on the summit of Guadalupe Peak. No such enclaves are required by the Wilderness Act and the whole concept is opposed by conservationists.

GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Expansion of Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains park wilderness areas as we recommend will assure wilderness protection for the two ends of the Guadalupe Escarpment. To bring it all together, however, the gap between also needs protection. To achieve this unitary wilderness opportunity -- unique in the region -- conservationists propose that 33,500 acres of Lincoln National Forest also be designated as wilderness, linking the two parks. Together, the three units would thus be united into one 150,640-acre Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness (a concept originally sponsored by the National Speleological Society) to be administered cooperatively by the Forest Service and Park Service and offering an unparalleled variety of wilderness values and uses, including spelunking, backcountry exploration, hiking, wildlife study and (in the national forest portion) hunting.

At the moment, it does not appear that the wilderness proposal for Lincoln National Forest lands will be sponsored by the Forest Service. It is therefore essential that citizens urge this step at the Park Service wilderness hearings for the two adjoining parks. We hope this will lead to response from the Forest Service, which has, to its credit, been closely working with National Park officials on regional planning for the area. The unity of the wilderness will require either the cooperative wilderness designation we propose here or the transfer of the intervening forest lands to the national park system by act of Congress.

The many wild caves in the Guadalupe Escarpment are fragile, not only because their decorative features are easily destroyed but because the natural systems of their still-active geology and ecology are precariously balanced. Wilderness designation of surrounding areas is one step for their protection, as it limits accessibility. Special precautions may be necessary, such as gates over small cave entrances, but these are permissible within wilderness. The most important opportunity is for the final wilderness legislation to designate underground wilderness in these caves and the non-public portions of Carlsbad Caverns. Conservationists and speleologists strongly favor this.

IN SUMMARY

Conservationists:

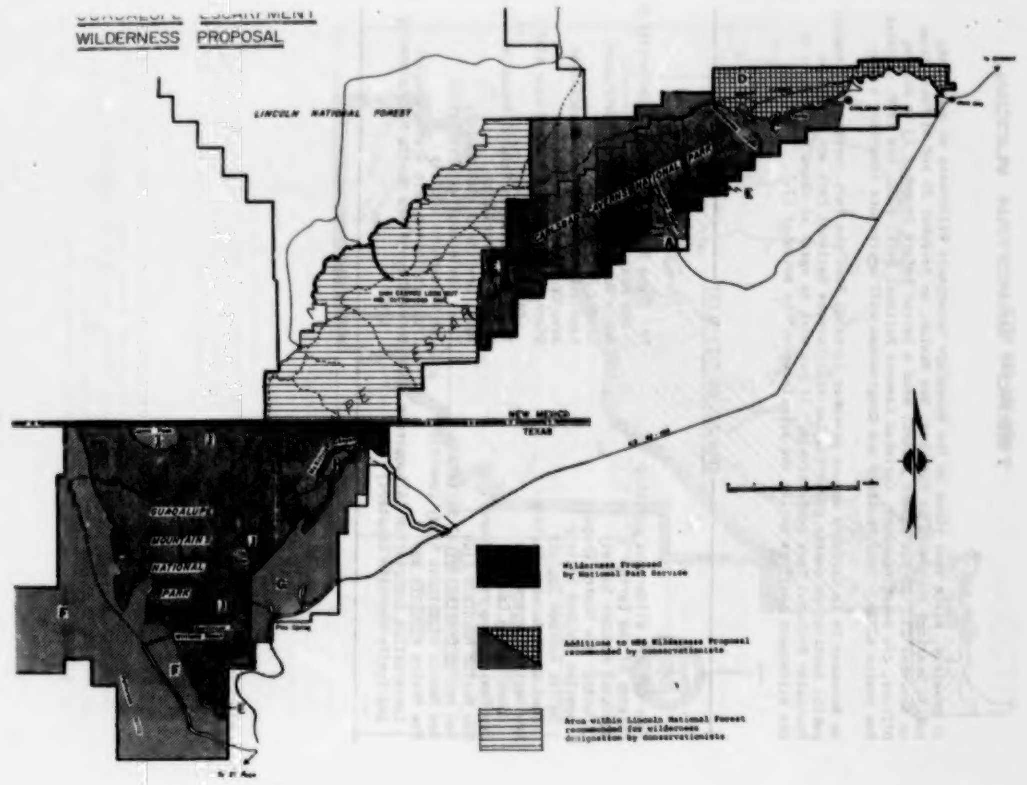
1. Urge establishment of a 41,900-acre Carlsbad Caverns National Park Wilderness, with additions A, B, C, D and E.

2. Urge establishment of 75,240-acre Guadalupe Mountains National Park Wilderness, with additions F, G, H, I and J.

3. Urge that the entire Guadalupe Escarpment, a unique combination of above-and-below-ground wilderness, be administered and managed as wilderness by all responsible public land agencies. Total area, Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness: 150,640 acres.

4. Oppose the proposed tramway as an undesirable development in the proposed Guadalupe Wilderness.

5. Recommend elimination of proposed Park Service management zones around wilderness perimeters.


GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT
WILDERNESS PROPOSAL
LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK
ESCARPMENT
GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
Wilderness Proposed by National Park Service
Additions to NPS Wilderness Proposal recommended by conservationists
Area within Lincoln National Forest recommended for wilderness designation by conservationists

HOW YOU CAN HELP

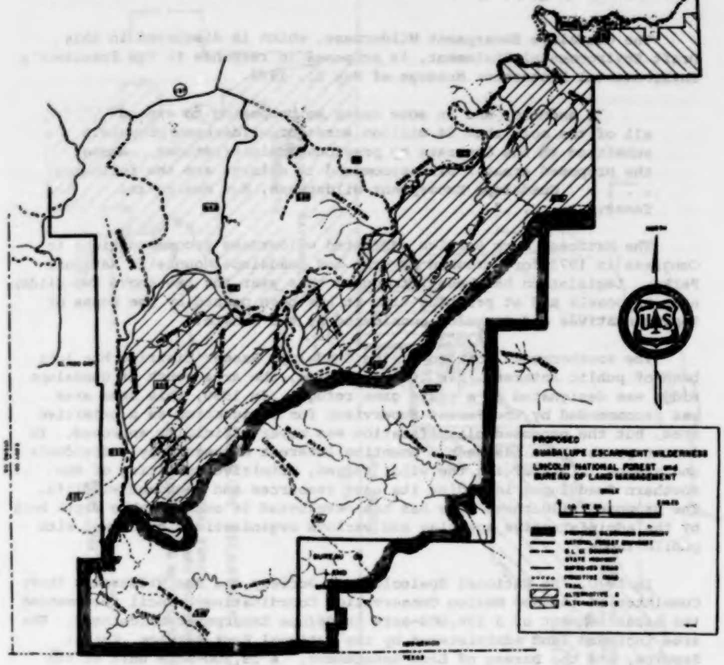
If possible, state your views on the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness at one of the public hearings scheduled in Carlsbad, New Mexico, on November 20 and El Paso, Texas on November 23. If you cannot attend, send a letter before December 23 to Hearing Officer, c/o Superintendent, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, P. O. Box 1598, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220. Your Senators and Congressman will appreciate receiving a copy.

On November 19 in Carlsbad and on November 22 in El Paso the Park Service will conduct public meetings on master plans for Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park respectively. If you wish to speak at these meetings or at the wilderness hearings notify the superintendent by November 17.

SPONSORS OF THIS ALERT

- Four Corners Wilderness Workshop
- Friends of the Earth
- National Audubon Society
  - Central New Mexico Chapter
  - Houston Audubon Society
  - Dallas Audubon Society
  - Fort Worth Audubon Society
- New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council
- New Mexico Democratic Council
- New Mexico Mountain Club
- New Mexico Ornithological Society
- New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee
- New Mexico Wildlife and Conservation Association (Albuquerque and Sandia Mountain Chapters)
- Phi Sigma Biology Honorary, University New Mexico
- Rocky Mountain Center on Environment
- Sandia Archers
- Sandia Crest Bowhunters Association
- Save Open Space, Dallas
- Sierra Club (Rio Grande and Lone Star Chapters)
- Texas Committee on Natural Resources
- Texas Explorers Club
- Texas Ornithological Society
- Texas Speleological Association
- The Wilderness Society
- Trout Unlimited, Rio Grande Chapter
- University of New Mexico Mountaineering Club

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST


NORTH
PROPOSED
GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS
LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST and
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SCALE
PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
B.L.M. BOUNDARY
STATE HIGHWAY
IMPROVED ROAD
PRIMITIVE ROAD
TRAIL
ALTERNATIVE
ALTERNATIVE

INTRODUCTION

The Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness, which is discussed in this Draft Environmental Statement, is proposed in response to the President's Environmental Protection Message of May 23, 1977.

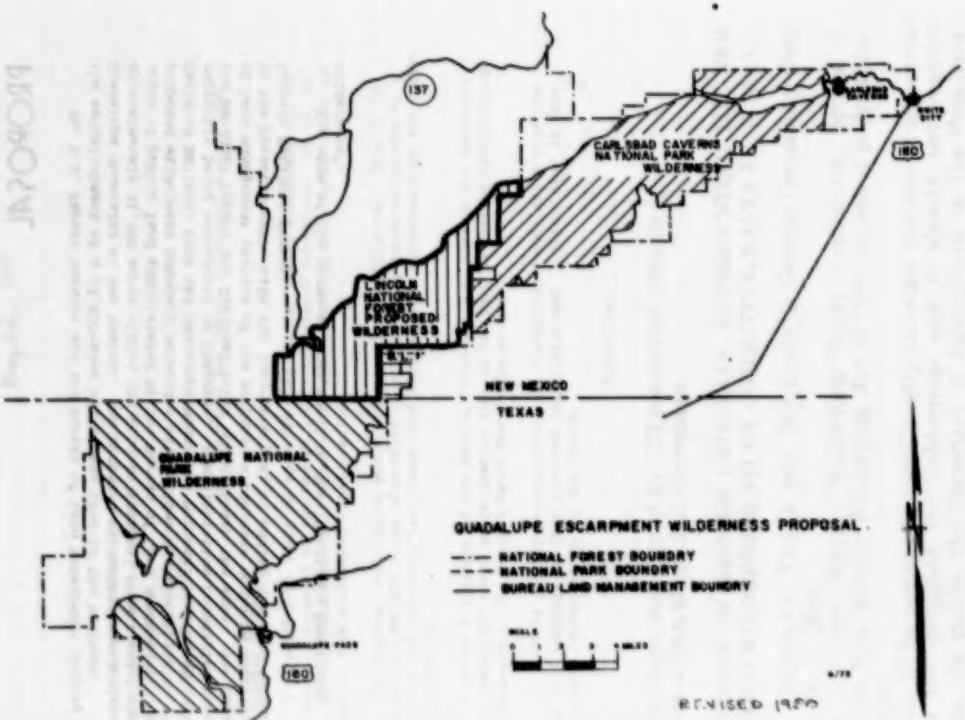
> "I endorse, and in some cases am proposing to expand all of the more than 24 million acres of wilderness proposals submitted to the Congress by previous Administrations. Among the proposed areas I will recommend to enlarge are the following: . . . . . Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness, New Mexico and Texas, ..."

The National Park Service submitted wilderness recommendations to Congress in 1973 for Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. Legislation has been introduced this year for the above two wilderness proposals and at printing time it has been passed by the House of Representatives and is being considered by the Senate.

The southernmost portion of the Guadalupe Ranger District has long been of public interest. In its early days, the area south of Guadalupe Ridge was designated as a state game refuge. In 1930, this same area was recommended by the Forest Supervisor for designation as a primitive area, but the proposed classification was never officially approved. In recent years there has been a mounting interest expressed by individuals and groups in preserving the wild, rugged, primitive qualities of the southern Guadalupes including its cave resources and abundant wildlife. The proposed wilderness area has been evaluated in considerable depth both by the administrative agencies and various organizations concerned with public lands.

In 1970, the National Speleological Society and the Wilderness Study Committee of the New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council recommended the establishment of a 156,000-acre Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness. The area included land administered by the National Park Service, Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. A 19,200-acre unit of the southern Guadalupe District was identified during the roadless area review and evaluation (RARE I) inventory and was designated as a new wilderness study area. The RARE II inventory in 1977 enlarged the RARE I area to 21,300 acres. This enlarged area is essentially the National Forest land included in this proposal. Included as part of this proposal are 1,800 acres of adjacent land administered by the Bureau of Land Management southeast of the Forest boundary. The BLM is in agreement with the inclusion of these acres.

The BLM framework plan for the public lands within the proposal calls for (1) maintaining a continuing and close contact with the National Park Service and the Forest Service concerning implementation of their planning along the adjoining agencies' boundaries, and (2) maintaining "primitive area" aesthetics along the Guadalupe Escarpment area.



GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS PROPOSAL.

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST PROPOSED WILDERNESS
CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS
GUADALUPE NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
137
180
180
WHITE CITY
GUADALUPE PASS
NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDRY
NATIONAL PARK BOUNDRY
BUREAU LAND MANAGEMENT BOUNDRY
SCALE
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REVISED 1980

PROPOSAL

The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management propose the establishment of a 22,800-acre wilderness area in the southern Guadalupe Mountains of New Mexico. The proposed wilderness encompasses approximately 21,000 acres within the Lincoln National Forest and 1,800 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The proposed wilderness boundary coincides with wilderness boundaries in Carlsbad National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park which are currently being considered by Congress. Administrative boundaries between the National Forest and National Parks would remain the same. The Bureau of Land Management portion of the proposed wilderness would be administered by the Forest Service with the long-term goal of adding the land to the Lincoln National Forest.

The name of the proposed area would be the "Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness".

May 22, 1980

Hon. Dale Bumpers, Chairman
Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation &
Renewable Resources
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Proposed New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980

Dear Senator Bumpers:

I am writing to state my opposition to the New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980 recently proposed by the New Mexico Congressional Delegation. It is, in fact, an Anti-Wilderness Bill which would remove most National Forest Lands in New Mexico from wilderness consideration.

The proposed legislation would protect only 560,000 acres. This is in contrast to 1,800,000 acres identified as wilderness by conservationists in New Mexico and adjoining West Texas--and 800,000 acres recommended by the Forest Service RARE II.

I am not a resident of New Mexico. However, I do live on the Texas-New Mexico border and spend my recreation time in New Mexico, thereby contributing significantly to the tourist-based New Mexico economy.

The Bill is totally unacceptable. I, therefore, respectfully urge you not to hold hearings on this proposed legislation and to ensure that it does not receive consideration in the Senate.

Sincerely,

[This letter was signed by 123 concerned citizens.]

Senator DOMENICI. Mr. Grossman.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE GROSSMAN, REPRESENTING THE NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE, SANTA FE, N. MEX.

Mr. GROSSMAN. Thank you. My name is George Grossman from Santa Fe, N. Mex.

We, the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, oppose S. 2583, the New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980, unless it is drastically revised.

It should be revised to significantly increase the size of the areas which are proposed for wilderness and it should not restrict anyone, the public, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the President, from proposing additional areas at any time.

All of the areas recommended for wilderness designation in this bill are certainly worthy candidates. However, the size of most should be increased. Each should include all of the land which qualifies as wilderness.

For the past 12 years, the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee has been studying national forest lands in New Mexico to identify those which qualify for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system.

We have found many areas which qualify and have established boundaries for these areas which can usually be easily identified and which include all of the qualifying lands.

In establishing these boundaries, we have used as guides not only the Wilderness Act, but also published accounts of the intent of Congress when they established the national wilderness preservation system. We feel we are familiar not only with the lands, but also with the characteristics required for lands to qualify for wilderness.

We have an active group coming from all walks of life, all kinds of people are in here and they have all been active and they have all been out in the field looking at these lands. They know what they are doing.

In practically every one of these areas that is here we have people on the ground looking, establishing boundaries and determining whether or not these areas should be included in the system.

The basis for determining whether or not they should be included as wilderness is based partly on the Wilderness Act and partly on what published information we could get on the intent of Congress as to what qualified for wilderness.

The group has looked at these things and we have recommended during the RARE II process 55 areas totaling over 1.8 million acres. We believe that every one of these areas and all that acreage qualifies as wilderness and should be included in the national wilderness preservation system.

In this study process you are getting in the field, getting your feet dirty and getting cold and rained on and drawing lines on maps. You get fond of these areas. It makes it hard to take when you come up to a bill saying this is it, no more for 10 years and you have been working on it for 12 already.

This is a gut issue to me and to most of the people on the study committee. We have identified these, they qualify.

We really feel they should be included in the bill.

My written testimony goes over most of this, but I don't think I can add a lot to what the other people have said.

I concur with all of their statements.

Since Dorothy Hoard could not make it to the meeting, I would like to bid for one of her favorite areas, the Bandolere National Monument. Your proposal adds a little area on the western side called Dome. There is also an area on the east side, across the Rio Grande, which is called Caha. This area should have been included with Dome.

I don't remember now whether the Forest Service recommended it or not, but the Caha area is really the bankdrop and the vista from the existing Bandolere Wilderness, and I would like to say that I think that should be included.

You have recommended the Latir Peak. I can't understand why you came up with the boundaries that I have seen. The area is certainly smaller than what we recommended. I don't know of any conflicts in that area. I don't know why that boundary was released below the Forest Service. I think it should be increased to our proposed area which was shown on the maps that have been submitted to you.

This bill included an area to the west which we have called South Fork. This is one of the most rugged pieces of country in the

State of New Mexico. It is heavily wooded and very steep with no trails.

It is an excellent wilderness. But on the eastern side of Weaver Pike there is an area called Saw Mill Park. This it a very gentle area with about a 1½- or 2-mile trail up to a very long meadow. This is an excellent place for older people and people with small children to get a wilderness experience, and I really feel, having brought two kids up through the wilderness experience, that when you have a 5-year-old and you try to get him more than 2 miles, it is tough. The grass is up to his shoulders.

I would really like to see this Saw Mill Park added. The Forest Service has excluded part of that area for a ski development. That ski development, I believe, has been proposed for over 10 years and no one has taken them up on it yet. In the Pecos Wilderness additions, the Carson National Forest never recommended an area to the north that we have long felt should have been added.

They have claimed that there are too many old roads in there. Actually, these roads were wagon trails that were in that area when it was logged, very selectively for poles and ties, during the 1920's, so it has been over 50 years since the logging was done.

The few stumps in there crumble and fall away. It would be a terrific addition to the existing Pecos Wilderness and we would like to see it included.

Another is the Columbine Hondo which at this point is in further planning, according to the Forest Service's recommendation. It is across a powerline from the Wheeler Peak addition. The only thing that separates the Columbine Hondo from Wheeler Peak Wilderness is a powerline.

I would think it would be included as part of the Wheeler Peak, but it has been studied separately and has a different identification as far as the Forest Service is concerned.

There is some mining activity on the edge of that and if those conflicts could be resolved, we would certainly like to see that area included. I believe that is about all I had to say, but I would really like to work with the committee if there are any boundary revisions and if we could get with the ranchers and develop a better system of management some way, we are anxious to do it, and if we can sit down at a table with them I think we might resolve a lot of things.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Grossman follows:]

STATEMENT OF GEORGE GROSSMAN
REPRESENTING THE
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE
BEFORE THE
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION
AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 29, 1980

We, the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, oppose S. 2583, the New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980, unless it is drastically revised. It should be revised to significantly increase the size of the areas which are proposed for Wilderness and it should not restrict anyone, the public, the Secretary of Agriculture or the President, from proposing additional areas at any time.

All of the areas recommended for Wilderness designation in this bill are certainly worthy candidates. However, the size of most should be increased. Each should include all of the land which qualifies as Wilderness.

For the past 12 years, the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee has been studying National Forest lands in New Mexico to identify those which qualify for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. We have found many areas which qualify and have established boundaries for these areas which can usually be easily identified and which include all of the qualifying lands. In establishing these boundaries, we have used as guides not only the Wilderness Act but also published accounts of the intent of Congress when they established the National Wilderness Preservation System. We feel we are familiar not only with the lands, but also with the characteristics required for lands to qualify for Wilderness.

Obviously, this effort has required a tremendous expenditure of time. Many, many weekends, evenings, holidays, and vacations have been devoted to studying these areas and reporting the findings. This time has been given freely by many dedicated people who felt that our few remaining wild areas should be protected, and that for many of these areas Wilderness designation would provide the most appropriate protection. The people doing these studies have come from many different walks of life--students, dishwashers, secretaries, construction workers, laboratory technicians, teachers, lawyers, engineers, scientists, doctors and professors. They all felt that preserving our remaining undeveloped land is very important.

During the Forest Service's RARE II process, the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee recommended for Wilderness an "Alternative W" which consisted of 55 areas containing about 1,829,000 acres. This compares to only 11 areas and 366,400 acres proposed in this bill, a difference of 1,262,600 acres.

Section 2(b)(1) of this bill would allow development of all of this difference--over a million acres of our last wild and undeveloped forest lands. It may be that 55 areas and 1,829,000 acres are too much to be considered at one time. However, these areas have been studied thoroughly and should not be released to development with very little chance of ever again being considered for Wilderness. Section 2(b)(1) should be eliminated from this bill.

Of the 11 areas proposed for Wilderness in this bill, only one, Withington Wilderness, contains approximately the acreage recommended by the Study Committee. All of the others should be enlarged to the size shown in the following table:

Aldo Leopold Wilderness	315,000 acres
Blue Range Wilderness	59,000 acres
Capitan Wilderness	40,000 acres
Dome Wilderness	21,700 acres (1)
Gila Wilderness Additions	239,000 acres
Guadalupe Escarpment Additions	21,300 acres (2)
Latir Peak Wilderness	26,200 acres
Pecos Wilderness Additions	135,500 acres
Wheeler Peak Wilderness Additions	17,900 acres
White Mountain Wilderness Additions	21,690 acres

(1) The proposed Dome Wilderness adjoins the existing Bandelier Wilderness on the west side. Another area, Caja, adjoins the Bandelier Wilderness on the east side. Both of these areas should be added to the Bandelier Wilderness. The total area of the additions to the Bandelier Wilderness would then be the 21,700 acres shown for Dome.

(2) The proposed Guadalupe Escarpment (Southern Guadalupe) Wilderness is an extension of the existing Carlsbad Caverns Wilderness. We have increased the size of our proposal for this area from the 21,300 acres of "Alternative W" to 39,180 acres to protect the caves in this area. The surface has been slightly developed, but this important underground wilderness resource should be protected.

Section 4 of the bill is concerned with the San Francisco Wilderness Proposed. This area was included in our Blue Range Wilderness proposal, so Section 4 could be eliminated entirely if our proposal for the Blue Range were adopted. This section should be eliminated from the bill anyway, because it directs the Secretary to do something he has already done--study the lands of the San Francisco Wilderness Area Proposed to determine suitability or nonsuitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This area was studied during the RARE II process and was recommended for Wilderness by the President.

Since this bill designates so little of New Mexico remaining undeveloped area as Wilderness, we are strongly opposed to all of Section 5. The opportunity to propose additional areas for Wilderness should not be denied to the general public or the President.

Section 5(d) accepts as adequate the environmental impact statement which was prepared for RARE II. Since the adequacy of this statement has been questioned by the courts, we feel there are serious doubts about whether all of the factors relevant to the decisions made by the Forest Service were adequately evaluated. The environmental review process should be allowed to take its normal course.

This bill should be discarded, and new proposals made which would provide protection for all of the lands in each area recommended by the President and in the other areas which we recommended during the RARE II process as "Alternative W."

Senator **Domenici**. Mr. Grossman, we are most appreciative of your testimony. I don't think there is anything in the release language that could have precluded any future Congress from designating the area as wilderness.

That is not a legal possibility. This language is directed not at Congress. Next year, the year after, or any time during that 10 years, a bill can be introduced to create a study area and to ultimately pass judgment on whether or not it is going to be a wilderness.

There is no way we could, nor did we intend to, preclude that happening. The spirit of it, and it may need work, is to take an administrative process that has been ongoing and say as to it we reach a final point.

It wasn't an intent to say we are changing the right of Congress to designate wilderness areas.

Mr. **Grossman**. To me this limits the President's ability to recommend to Congress, and just the way my civics book is written, the President proposes and the Congress disposes.

I somehow feel that you are violating that principle. Maybe there is nothing in the Constitution that says that, but it is a principle that I was brought up with.

Senator **Domenici**. No, the President can propose almost anything. The point of it is that this release language would say that kind of recommendation, and not carry with it any administrative activities that create de facto wilderness or management different than the normal ones exclusive of wilderness.

That is the goal. We do that to the President all the time.

Mr. **Grossman**. You probably need work on the language.

Senator **Domenici**. Dave, you made a point that the release language, as you view it, would discriminate in terms of the planning that is permitted by the administrators, the Forest Service people, in that they would not be able to apply the same planning techniques to one part of their jurisdiction that they can in another.

I don't quite understand that.

Mr. **Foreman**. I think that the problem comes in in the wording of section 5, that the general scope of language, I think, basically says that—in the forest management plans that the Forest Service may do on these areas, they will not consider the wilderness option, that the lands will be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness.

I think there is a great deal of confusion in this section and I believe that there could be legal challenges possibly from the timber industry or other commercial groups that this section mandates development-type activities in these release lands.

I think it is just poorly written and unclear and should be really worked over and looked at.

Senator **Domenici**. I thought you said that, and it really didn't strike me as anything that I had passed judgment on either implicitly or specifically. I am reminded by the staff that similar language is found in the Oregon bill, and the explanation for it is this.

Nothing in the new land planning process can be used to block multiple-use management. It should be noted that this language does not prevent any agency from reviewing an area in the future for wilderness.

Rather, it is intended to preclude lawsuits alleging that there has not been sufficient wilderness review, lawsuits, or anything other than wilderness are not limited in any way, specifically or generally.

So I think that one section is more directed at the ongoing process that we have stated and keeps going rather than the normal ongoing evaluation.

Mr. **Foreman**. I will admit that there can be legitimate concern about California type RARE II lawsuits, and that some people may have a legitimate point that that should be prevented.

However, I think that when we were talking about Forest Service land use management that the Forest Service has got to have the flexibility in their land use plans to look at the whole array of multiple uses.

I would like to remind the committee that wilderness is one of those multiple uses and if we say that on this 1½ million acres of lands in New Mexico they cannot look at the wilderness multiple use, then we are setting up a different planning system for those lands. I am concerned that this section will tie the flexibility of the Forest Service in doing professional land use planning.

I would urge you to carefully look at that.

Senator **Schmitt**. I don't think that is what it intended to say. I think you may be reading things into it, but we will look at it.

Senator **Domenici**. It seems to me that looking at it versus a legal obstacle are two different things. Also, what is the impact of looking at the issues legally and in the field.

Mr. **Foreman**. Another consideration is that these are national forest lands, whether they are in New Mexico, Oregon, or Missouri or New Hampshire or wherever, and if there is to be some type of release language of any kind, let it be on a national basis and not have every little State bill have a different variety of release language.

If Congress does decide that there should be release language, then by all means let's make it one unified type of thing so that the Forest Service isn't having to manage 40 different types of language.

Senator **Schmitt**. If the Senator would yield.

In fact, that is what everybody is trying to do, and since this is the vehicle we have or the Oregon bill is the vehicle we have, we are searching or what is going to be doable.

If we find one that is doable, presumably that will be the precedent for national legislation. I don't think what you said is incompatible with what we feel.

It is just that the national vehicle doesn't exist and probably won't exist for some time.

Senator **Domenici**. With your permission, Senator Schmitt, we ought to go on to the next panel.

Senator **Schmitt**. Yes.

Senator **Domenici**. Let me ask, and I don't want you to necessarily answer this now, but if any of you with expert background want to try your hand at a letter, we will put it in the record. I wonder if you might share with the committee what you think the effect would be if no bills were passed with reference to the RARE II a all. Say if it wasn't passed in a certain period of time—in 3 years and then carry it out and just go the gamut and say 10 years.

I would like your honest evaluation as proponents of what you think that would do in terms of the management of the public domain that is called a forest.

I have a suspicion it would be very attractive to those who oppose wilderness but not to those who are strong advocates of wilderness. I think we will end up with such confusion that we will be worse off than to face the confrontation and do what we can.

I would like you to share that with us. Thank you very much for coming.

Our next panel is Oliver Lee of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association; David Vackar, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau; Erwin Kulosa, Southwestern Forest Resource Affairs; Arthur E. Himebaugh, Phelps Dodge; and John Augustine, Continental Oil Co.

Mr. Lee.

STATEMENT OF OLIVER LEE, JR., CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL FOREST COMMITTEE, NEW MEXICO CATTLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION, ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

Mr. **Lee**. Senator, I appreciate the opportunity to appear on behalf of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association and also for myself as a permittee who has an area that is included within a primitive area and also within one of the RARE II study areas.

I would like to ask that this written testimony be entered as part of the record, and I will confine my remarks to two specific areas.

Senator **Domenici**. It will be made part of the record.

Mr. **Lee**. First, Senator, it seems that the environmental groups agree with the livestock people that we need access to maintain our permits and livestock numbers to the same level and extent as when an area has been declared wilderness.

It seems that the House Interior Subcommittee and the Interior Insular Affairs Committee and Congressman Seiberling agree with us and it appears that this committee has agreed with us in the past.

It seems to me that we could find the one son of a gun in the Department of Agriculture that is keeping all of us from accomplishing this, our problem would be solved.

The regional carrying capacities in the Gila National Forests and others have been reduced. The Forest Service's only solution to the problem has been to reduce numbers, which, in effect, doesn't solve the problem.

It reduces the affected area that is being abused but it doesn't solve the problem, so you eventually lose the full carrying capacity of these areas. We feel that without proper legislation, either an amendment to the Wilderness Act or a separate bill addressing grazing within wilderness areas, we have no alternative but to oppose wilderness in its total, because, in effect, what you are doing then is condemning those people that have a permit within a wilderness area to a slow economic strangulation.

That is a fact of life. It has been shown in the record. I can attest to the fact. I have one permit now that has one well in a primitive area.

I have the problem of access as far as repair of the well. I have no right to pump the well as of this time, although it was pumped for 16 years after this area was declared a primitive area.

That act has been taken away. It affects the way the permit operates. The Forest Service people on the local level recognize the problem and sympathize with me. It doesn't help me any, though, if I make an application to do something of that nature, if they have no right then to grant me that ability of access.

Senator **DOMENICI**. Let me see if you can start and get me up to speed and get the record where we can explain this issue.

What you are talking about is an area of the forest upon which there is grazing—it has been permitted and there is a permit to graze cattle.

You are being told changing that to wilderness still grants you this privilege or right to graze cattle on that land. But are you saying the way they restrict your use or management effectively precludes you from continuing your operation?

Mr. **LEE**. It precludes me from continuing the operation in the same manner and extent and maintaining the same numbers that I have at the present time by restricting my ability to manage it in a proper manner. According to their guidelines and the management of the forest, it is a detrimental effect to the resource, and their only alternative is to reduce the numbers.

Senator **DOMENICI**. As a matter of fact, you are talking for those people who were using it under a permit and you might have had water that you had to maintain or a small building that you had to maintain. All of that was going on, when we came along and studied it for wilderness and then we made it a wilderness.

Then the rules in the field, as contrasted with what you hear said in Congress, effectively says, even though you were doing it and we found it to be qualified for a wilderness while you were using it, you can't use it in the same way any longer; is that correct?

Mr. **LEE**. Yes, sir.

Senator **DOMENICI**. Could you give us a couple of examples?

Mr. **LEE**. All right. This permit that I have has a well in the middle of it. It is divided by a fence. It effectively divides the permit into two pieces. The well is the only permanent water in an area probably some 6 miles square in either direction.

If, according to the guidelines, this well breaks down or runs out of water or runs low on water, you have one alternative. I can move those cattle away from that well, either to the river, which is some 4 miles away, and keep them there, but the problem with that is you concentrate those cattle in a particular spot. Then the Forest Service will say that you are abusing that particular area and will want to reduce the number.

Senator **DOMENICI**. Why can't you repair the well?

Mr. **LEE**. I can. In the past I made an application to repair the well. I can get a special use permit to go in and pull the pipe and the rods out of the well and repair the well.

I cannot use any kind of motorized pump jack to pump the well to effectively keep water there so that I can distribute the livestock over the total permit. That is restricted.

This has been a primitive area up until this time and is recommended for inclusion in the wilderness area. I was granted the ability to go in and pump this water, but as far as maintaining the water there either for the livestock or for the game, I am effectively prevented from doing that by the rules and regulations, the way the Forest Service interprets it now.

And yet the Congress says in the committee hearings that I should have this right of access to do these things, and yet when I go to the Forest Service, they say no. It would be nice if you could tell the Forest Service, obey the committee report, and yet their counsel has told them that I can't do this.

According to their interpretation of the law I can't do this, and yet you, as Senators and Congressmen, tell me I can. It seems that everybody agrees with it except the Department of Agriculture and their lawyers.

It puts me in a quandary. I would have no objection to this part of my permit being within a wilderness area if I had this right of access to accomplish these things. But if they are going to put me out of business, I have no alternative but to oppose the bill on those grounds.

Senator DOMENICI. Are you saying that what you are going to be precluded from doing you have been doing in the past?

Mr. LEE. Yes, sir.

Senator DOMENICI. So if it was primitive or if it was wilderness you were doing those things on it before it got the new designation; is that correct?

Mr. LEE. Yes. You get into a matter of semantics. Livestock grazing would be continuing in this essence, but not at the level that it was when it entered wilderness designation. It might drop from 100 head, say, down to 10 head of cattle.

In their interpretation of the law, I am continuing grazing, but as far as an economic possibility or aspect of me continuing business, I couldn't.

Senator DOMENICI. Well, how about the pumping of water that you described? Were you permitted to do that before?

Mr. LEE. Let me give you a short history of this well. This is one of those areas that was declared a primitive area in 1924. The well was drilled by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1946. The well was pumped and the old pump jack was still there until around 1952. I can't establish the specific date. So the well was pumped for 16 years after this was declared primitive area and then the area was blocked off.

There was a county-maintained road that went to this particular well. It has been blocked off ever since then. The only time that I have been in there in a vehicle in the time I have had the permit was one time to pull the pipe and rods out of the well.

The other times I walked to the well and checked the water and walked out.

Senator DOMENICI. How long have you or your family had the permit?

Mr. LEE. For 3 years. It has been in this one family for possibly 40 years and the gentleman that had it had a stroke and was too old to maintain it and was forced into selling it.

Senator DOMENICI. Let me just read in the record two sections of the law that are causing the problem. Section 4(d)2 on page 115, the grazing of livestock where established prior to the effective date of this act shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Then section 4(c) on page 113 is a section which contains prohibitions and it says, except as specifically provided for in this act, and it goes on and says, there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicle, motorized equipment or motor boats, no landing of aircraft, and no structure or installation within any such area.

And I assure it is between the two that we find ourselves in this dilemma. Did you have additional testimony?

Mr. LEE. One thing. I have two recommendations for the committee's consideration. I offer this just for information and for possible use maybe in the future, and I will make these two copies available to the committee if you are interested and ask that they be entered in the record. They are possible suggestions for language to either amend or change the Wilderness Act or possibly in the future if a separate bill was entered to clarify this part on grazing within wilderness areas.

I would like to offer this for consideration and study.

Senator DOMENICI. It will be made a part of the record.

Could you paraphrase it for us real quick?

Mr. LEE. In effect, it specifies those particular activities that would be allowed to continue grazing at the same level and extent as when an area was designated as a wilderness area, such as repair, replacement, and even the placement of new facilities that would permit the reduction in numbers of livestock on a particular permit within a wilderness area, if they were not added.

Senator DOMENICI. We will certainly make that a part of the record.

[The recommendations referred to follow:]

GRAZING

SEC. . Section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. § 1133(d)(4)) is hereby amended by adding the following:

"This means that notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there shall be no curtailments of customary domestic livestock grazing uses and related support activities and facilities solely because an area has been designated as wilderness; the Secretary shall permit the retention, maintenance, repair, reconstruction and replacement of those structures, installations, facilities and improvements established in an area prior to its designation as wilderness and permit the construction of those new facilities and improvements necessary for effective and efficient management of livestock grazing and range resources. Furthermore, the Secretary shall permit the use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment for such purposes, as well as for attending to livestock and for responding to emergencies, if such motorized uses were established in the area prior to its designation as wilderness. The use of 'natural materials' in the construction or reconstruction of facilities will not be required unless the material and labor costs of using natural materials would not impose unreasonable additional costs on grazing permittees."

GRAZING

SEC. . Nothwithstanding any other provision of law, the following policies shall be followed by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior with respect to grazing activities within all areas of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) livestock grazing activities and facilities established in an area prior to the time it was designated as a unit of the wilderness system shall be allowed to continue; there shall be no curtailments of grazing permits, uses, or customary

support activities solely because an area has been designated as wilderness, nor shall wilderness designation be used as a rationale for phased reduction of grazing uses and activities or for elimination of support facilities: *Provided*, That the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may, for the purpose of enhancing wilderness values, require alternative support activities or facilities that would not impose unreasonable additional costs on grazing permittees nor cause any decline in grazing use;

(2) adjustments in the numbers of livestock permitted to graze in wilderness areas may be made in the normal grazing management planning process giving consideration to the optimum forage conditions and the protection of the range resource;

(3) the retention, maintenance, repair, reconstruction and replacement of structures, installations, improvements and other facilities existing in a wilderness area or established by an agreement with the land management agency prior to the area's classification as wilderness, shall be permittted in wilderness areas;

(4) the construction of new grazing improvements and facilities shall be permitted in wilderness areas for the purpose of range resource protection and the more effective and efficient management of grazing resources but not solely to accommodate increased numbers of livestock; the use of motorized equipment for such new construction shall be permitted based on a rule of reasonableness and practicality;

(5) the construction, reconstruction or replacement of facilities or improvements shall not be required to be accomplished using "natural materials", unless the material and labor costs of using natural materials are such that their use would not impose unreasonable additional costs on grazing permittees;

(6) the use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment for the purposes of attending to livestock, the activities in subsection (3) and for responding to emergencies involving humans or livestock, shall be permitted, without prior consent, by express authorization in the grazing permits and leases for the wilderness area involved: *Provided*, That there are no practical alternatives available that would not impose unreasonable costs and hardships on the permittees or lessees involved.

Senator DOMENICI. Did you have anything further?

Mr. LEE. Just some short comments on a particular area in the Blue Range that is administered by the Gila National Forest.

The administration evidently recommended the total amount of area that was in the Blue Range primitive area that is within New Mexico. The original study done in 1971 or 1972 signed by the then Secretary of Agriculture recommended that some 21,700 acres of that area be removed from wilderness classifications, since it clearly had no wilderness attributes.

It was an area that was also agreed to by certain chapters of the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club. They agreed that the majority of this area had no wilderness attributes. It seems that this area has been added back in. If it had no wilderness attributes then and was agreed to by nearly everybody concerned, I don't see how this particular area could turn around and be included at a later date.

I question that. It is the portion of the Blue Range primitive area that is called the Alma Mesa.

There are also two other particular areas that were recommended as additions to the Gila primitive areas. One, an area of 18,000 acres in the northeast part of the Gila primitive, and the other, an area of some 18,000 acres in the southwest part of the Gila primitive area. The original studies done by the Forest Service said that these two particular areas had too much impact from man's influence to be included within the wilderness system.

Both areas had some 18 miles of road in the original statement, had motorized pump jacks, and three to four steel rims in each one of these areas for livestock waters. One particular area had the remains of an old mining operation.

These two particular areas in the original studies were recommended for exclusion. They have been added back in as part of the RARE II process.

I would disagree with that addition I might add that the Wilderness Society and preservation groups at that time disagreed with the Forest Service on their interpretation of what man's imprint was in these particular areas, but we don't feel that they should be added.

Senator Domenici. So you are suggesting that we should carefully review whether or not there is or is not what was found to be there earlier in the first study in terms of man's influence in the environment of that area?

Mr. Lee. I would recommend, Senator, before the final boundary lines are drawn that you would go back and carefully study the original primitive area studies done by the Forest Service and filed as administratively endorsed areas.

I heard that the environmental groups now were recommending 315,000 acres for the Aldo Leopold and in the original studies and the presentation made to the Forest Service at that time, they only recommended 231,000. So somewhere in the process they have added some 6,000 acres to their presentation.

I may have heard the figures wrong, but those are the figures that I have.

Senator Domenici. Senator Schmitt.

Senator Schmitt. Mr. Chairman, I suggest we move on. I appreciate the testimony and I think you have covered most of the principal elements. Something else may come up in the course of other discussion, though.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lee follows:]

May 29, 1980

TESTIMONY

Before

The Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation and Renewal Resources
3110 Dirksen Senate Office Building
2:00 p.m.

PRESENTED BY:

Oliver Lee, Jr.
Chairman, New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
National Forest Committee
Albuquerque, New Mexico - 87194

ON BEHALF OF THE

NEW MEXICO CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 7517
Albuquerque, New Mexico - 87194

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Oliver Lee. I am Chairman of the National Forest Committee of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association. I am here on behalf of the Association and also appear in my own behalf since I graze cattle in a primitive area and am directly affected by the proposed legislation. We are indeed grateful for the opportunity to present our views.

To understand the livestock industrys feelings about this issue, we believe it is important for you to know all the different problems with which we have to contend and which have brought about the sentiment known as the "Sagebrush Rebellion".

In New Mexico at this time we have the White Sands Missile Range, the Cannon Gunnery Range at Melrose, with a proposal to expand that area. We have missiles being fired from Blanding, Utah to White Sands, necessitating evacuation of rural areas for a time. We have the proposed Waste Isolation site at Carlsbad, we have a proposed supersonic flight area over Catron County, and we have a possible deployment of the MX Missile System.

In addition to these, we have the present RARE II proposal and also another 1.9 million acres of BLM land under study for wilderness designation.

To understand our resentment at being carved up for special uses, we believe you should look at the problems that would arise by trying to acquire the same amount of land in the Eastern United States through condemnation, or to look at it from the point of the effect it would have on your families if you were directly affected in the same manner as we are. It seems that the public land states of the west have become dumping grounds for all the projects no one else wants.

As for the legislation being heard today, there are some points with which we agree. We believe that the matter of wilderness should be settled, therefore, we support the concept of the release language. Mr. Culter's original statement of intent at the start of RARE II was to settle the issue once and for all. We also support the consent of only having such legislation come before Congress every ten years since wilderness has become a full time project for some of us since the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act. We also believe the legislation should instruct the Forest Service to abide by the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee report on the Colorado Wilderness legislation. Without such instruction, we feel that the report will be ignored as it has the previous two times such a report was given.

The Wilderness Act was a timely legislation with base support from the entire nation. The preservationists capitalized on the wilderness movement and since that time have milked the wilderness concept to death! America's wilderness conservation organizations have always represented themselves as servants and protectors of the public. They are in fact, wealthy pressure groups which have, through organization, discipline, and expertise with the media, arrogated great political power to themselves. This power leads to excesses, exaggerations, and distortions which threaten to harm both themselves and the nation.

The declaration of wilderness as anything and everything that is remotely related to wilderness, has caused a total collapse of the base support of the preservationist. This is documented by the overwhelming public comment against RARE I and RARE II nationwide, statewide and county wide.

The erosion of the base support for the wilderness movement has left organizations like the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society in a predicament. Politicians that have ridden the crest of the environmental preservation movement to top positions in every agency in the bureaucracy have discovered their vehicle has no wheels. This brings us to the real wilderness issue -- "politics"!

Without support by the people to sustain the movement, preservationists must rely on tactical politics. There are several tactics used by the preservationists to accomplish their goals:

Tactic one is to declare large tracts of land as wilderness and make special interest groups prove them otherwise. Guilty until proven innocent is not a Democratic philosophy. If this process were reversed, I am sure the wilderness issue would be less controversial!

Tactic two - the nature of politics is compromise. By declaring twice as much wilderness as is feasible, compromise will net 50% return for the preservationist. If this process is repeated year in and year out, inevitably their goals will be reached. That is why they are so violently opposed to release language in the present legislation. Also, the success of this tactic depends entirely upon their ability to use tactic one.

Tactic three - is misrepresentation. For instance, campaigning for wilderness by suggesting a beautiful park like atmosphere for existing wilderness instead of an overgrown unmanaged forest is dishonest. This tactic takes advantage of the uneducated general public who think of wilderness as a park.

The anti-industry, anti-production, and anti-growth platform of the environmental community has armed the federal bureaucracy with the power to regulate all areas of American life. Therefore, it is quite understandable that the bureaucrats should remain obligated to these organizations.

Rules for this hearing stated that there would be six panel members representing special interest groups and six panel members representing the so-called environmentalist. Being familiar with wilderness, you are aware that users of wilderness represent a special age group and a special physical health and do not represent the general public. We believe this committee should recognize the preservationist as a special interest group and should note the disproportionate numbers between these two panels.

I am sure you are all aware of the arguments for and against wilderness from the standpoint of multiple use as opposed to single use.

We would like, however, to address the issue from the point of management of our natural resources, or in the case of wilderness designation, the effects of non-management. With wilderness designation within the Gila National Forest, along with ill conceived fire fighting policies, two circumstances have been created:

Circumstance number one - Watershed. The encroachment of pinon, juniper and pine thickets to the exclusion of forage species has led to a steady reduction in available water supplies. The Gila and San Francisco River basins are already two of the most restricted basins in the United States as far as the appropriation of water.

Circumstance number two - Fire. The potential for a catastrophic fire, which will occur. The Forest Service has belatedly recognized this fact and in the past two falls has allowed some fires to burn uncontrolled. It would take some one hundred years at that rate to accomplish the task if the same areas did not burn twice. It has only taken us 40 years to reach the present situation.

This invasion of pinon, juniper and pine species was recognized as a hazard by Aldo Leopold as early as 1924. It disrupts the ecological balance and creates a monoculture which excludes any number of wildlife species because of a lack of forage plants within the dense stands of trees.

Such areas have also proven to be highly erodible because of a lack of understory of grasses and forbs which hold the soil. From the standpoint of range management of a livestock operation, past Forest Service policy has been merely to cut numbers. This also is a non-management concept since you merely reduce the area being abused.

Non-management or the idea of reduced production is counterproductive to the best interests of the nation in the future.

For those of us within designated wilderness areas, to be able to survive, we need the tools to manage the resources not to increase our numbers, but just to maintain our present positions.

It is interesting to note that the preservation groups have no qualms about recommending areas for wilderness that have stock ponds, windmills, steel rims, corrals and pumps, but find them unacceptable practices after designation.

The practices opposed by the environmentalists improve game habitat and watershed management. Only Congress can expeditiously resolve the issue before us and set the matter to rest once and for all. Without legislation, we feel that large areas will become "de facto" wilderness with little hope of returning to production in the future.

I would like to conclude by saying that without the proper release language and without proper language for protection of the livestock permittees to continue operating in the same manner and extent as they have previously, we would have to oppose the New Mexico Wilderness Bill.

Thank you.

Senator **Domenici**. Mr. Vackar.

STATEMENT OF DAVID VACKAR, REPRESENTING THE NEW MEXICO FARM AND LIVESTOCK BUREAU, GLENWOOD, N. MEX

Mr. **Vackar**. I am David Vackar, representing the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau. I have written testimony I would like to have included for the record, but I would like to restrict my comments specifically to, I think, a correct interpretation by you gentlemen concerning the grazing problem in the wilderness designation that the livestock industry has.

I hope that I can emphasize upon you what dramatic social and economic effect wilderness classification will have on a lot of specific individual ranchers. This management potential that the Forest Service forces upon the rancher once his land is declared wilderness basically forces him to compete in today's very competitive and very involved and intensive management of the 1980 cattle business by using 1880 livestock management techniques instead of using mechanized vehicles to maintain his improvements, to make sure that they are working properly.

He is required to, rather than use a pickup, simply use a horse. He could sit 2 hours in management time spent in doing one simple task, but he may be forced to utilize 2 days to do the same task.

This doesn't seen to be much latitude from the Forest Service's viewpoint on this. Through collective and personal experience in New Mexico, we found that unless specific things are stated and forced upon the Forest Service to act upon, then we cannot depend on them, especially in a case-by-case situation, to both act justifiably and consistently in all cases for all people involved.

In other words, it basically isn't written down how we can manage our improvements to maintain them, to improve them, to make sure that they are operating properly. The Forest Service doesn't have specific guidelines to do this with and we feel there simply is not potential guarantee that we will be able to maintain ourselves as an economic base out here.

We simply would like to support Mr. Lee's recommendation that either an amendment to the Wilderness Act or a new bill be introduced stipulating how we can manage these improvements and utilize mechanized equipment on these wilderness permits out here.

We are not asking for the right to go in any time. We feel like that the rancher is probably the No. 1 conservationist out there, because this is his livelihood. If we abuse the land, then we abuse ourselves more so than anyone else involved.

We simply want to have the potential to compete profitably in today's market by using mechanized equipment out here once this is classified wilderness so that we aren't forced to sell our ranches, forced to lose our livelihood or forced to move away from areas in which we have lived all our lives, especially second and third generation families.

We also would like to ask the congressional delegation to reanalyze the very large amount of wilderness proposed in Capitan County. We are burdened with a tremendous amount of wilderness in that county and it is hard to justify to the people who live there the fact that over 70 percent of proposed wilderness in New Mexico will come into effect in that county, in one small segment of the State.

So we respectfully ask you to reanalyze that position and viewpoint.

Senator DOMENICI. What part of Capitan County is public land?

Mr. VACKAR. Over 95 percent is Federal or State land. Consequently, any change in managment affects the economic and social future for ourselves and our children.

Senator DOMENICI. Would it be fair to say that your position, as a spokesman for the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, is that if we could find some way to alleviate what you consider to be unreasonable grazing restrictions, you would be more supportive of wilderness areas? Is that the principal concern of your group?

Mr. VACKAR. Yes, sir. I think that is a valid viewpoint. There are several other areas that I think are questionable. Along with the severe amount of wilderness designated in Capitan County, we also wonder whether in an inflationary period, when the United States seems to be getting more and more dependent on foreign resources, we can consistently lock up a vast amount of resources under wilderness classification both in our State and in others.

We also, I think, realize that we would be conducive to compromise within some of these areas. But especially we feel like we are directly talking about the livestock. The wilderness classification now has absolutely no advantages and may go so far as to put some of our members completely out of business and we see no compromise whatsoever unless there is some alleviation of this problem.

Senator DOMENICI. Your testimony will be made a part of the record.

Senator SCHMITT. Mr. Chairman, I think that we are seeing further illustrations of what I tried to point out in my opening statement, that the present law is interesting in terms of working out what is best for wilderness and what is best for reasoned development and use of the land.

I understand that there are portions of the Gila Wilderness, and I would ask both you and Mr. Lee about this, that decades ago was fairly extensively grazed, but now is not only not grazable, but is, because of the growth of underbrush, is practically impenetrable, and in which very little wildlife now resides, and there is a considerable fire danger as a consequence.

I think the northern part of the wilderness is what——

Mr. VACKAR. Senator, you really can't imagine the magnitude of that unless you go to certain areas. The Forest Service, I feel, has put themselves into a vicious circle. They fought fires for so long that they have a tremendous buildup of debris. Now when they start having a change of attitude toward natural burning it is almost impossible to let go because of the potential hazard of a severe fire, for example, occurred in Idaho this past year.

Because they can't let one go they are tied into fighting more fires. There was a lot of grazing in that wilderness area. There is less wildlife in a lot of the wilderness areas than on the multiple use areas surrounding it. There are a lot of areas you can't crawl through.

That is why the Forest Service spent so much money building paths and trails, so people can walk, walk and ride through it.

Senator SCHMITT. So you would agree that there probably is some way in which at least ranching operations and wilderness designation could be designed to be mutually supportive?

Mr. VACKAR. Yes, sir. I think that is true.

Senator SCHMITT. And actually, assist both rather than harming either, is that correct?

Mr. VACKAR. Yes, sir. That is correct. I hate to use the word "guarantees," but it is as Mr. Lee mentioned—there is nothing in the administration of these wilderness permits now that says that as long as you are managing them in the same way that you have been and are able to manage them that way, then the livestock permit will not stay the same.

The Forest Service simply says continuation of grazing will occur; 10 head versus 100 head has a tremendous economic impact upon the individual.

Senator SCHMITT. I am not sure we can solve all these problems with this bill, but we can keep them in mind as we proceed to mark up and keep in mind what ought to be done.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Vackar follows:]

N. M. Farm & Livestock Bureau
Statement on
N. M. RARE II Proposal

The New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau is on record as opposing any additional wilderness areas in New Mexico. So, in fact, we ask that all of the 11 areas in the bill plus the one area recommended for further study be removed.

We respectfully request that the Aldo Leopold area, Gila Wilderness addition and the Blue Range and the San Francisco area all be dropped from the program because of special considerations.

It concerns our organization greatly that two counties in New Mexico (Grant and Catron) already have the overwhelming majority of existing wilderness acres in our state and the RARE II proposal that the Congressional Delegation has put forth would not only continue to expand this in that disparity, but would increase it because almost 75 percent of the proposal would be located in just the two counties.

This has caused an undue hardship for the ranching industry in that although grazing can continue ranchers will not be allowed to maintain improvements within the wilderness system economically.

Also we ask that if the Delegation goes ahead with the wilderness proposal then a grandfather clause be added to the legislation allowing ranchers to maintain their improvements in the same manner as they do today. Presently that is possible if the local Forest Service allows it, but to our knowledge that type of activity has never been allowed. As an example, on the McKeen Ranch which is located in the Blue Primitive some 40 plus earth water tanks are presently being maintained as well as corrals and housing.

We feel strongly that wildlife as well as grazing benefits from the improvements and we do not feel that ranchers would cause any environmental degradation to the surrounding land if allowed to bring in vehicles to maintain facilities.

We also ask that the release language found in Section 5 be maintained.

We would again refer you to our early comments sent to your office in January of this year which spell out in great detail our multitude of reasons for opposing wilderness.

We would also like to point out that if these lands are returned to multiple use there will be very little degradation of the surrounding area because most activities in the multiple use areas are controlled and monitored by Forest Service personnel. Somehow an impression has been started that these lands would be exploited by "developers" if returned to multiple use status and that is certainly not the case.

In another area, again we refer to the Gila addition, we have found that sections of private property have been included within the wilderness area. We find it inexcusable that a property owner would be deprived of entrance to his property by vehicle. No doubt in a few years those property owners would be forced to sell out to the government if access is limited to foot or horseback. We find this to be the case in a situation involving one of our members, Mr. Fred Huff of Las Cruces.

We would also point out there are several conflicts between what the Congressional Delegation recommended and what reports from the Governor of New Mexico on these areas have said, especially in the timber and mineral and gas categories.

And finally in our general comments we would point out that the economic activity generated by grazing uses in several of these areas could in fact put some ranchers out of business and in some cases cause severe economic damage to nearby cities. We would once again point out that wilderness areas are utilized by an extremely small proportion of our population and those people who are handicapped, sick, or elderly have almost no access to these areas once they are closed up into wilderness.

We would also mention that a recent survey by Congressman Runnels showed a majority of citizens of our state do not want any more wilderness. This view was backed by public comment during the RARE II public input period conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. We feel as before that our elected officials cannot ignore the wishes of the great majority of the citizens of the state of New Mexico.

And finally we would say that in the final analysis what wilderness designation does is create a private playground for the privileged at the expense of management of our natural resources in a manner which serves the greatest good for the greatest number.

PREFACE

We have divided our comments into several sections. The first being some general comments that we would apply to each and every area under consideration. We also include several specific areas of concern such as economic impact, Forest Service Public Imput program, public opinion and Wilderness management questions and their relation to this program.

In this section we comment on each individual wilderness area recommendation. In our Third Section we comment on each individual area that has been recommended for further planning and finally in our last section we have attached four items we would hope back our position which calls for the return of all of these areas to multiple use.

We would further ask that the delegation does not consider any additional areas that were not recommended by the Forest Service RARE II program.

This has happened all too often in the past with new areas being considered without time for our public comment.

We would also ask that you record comment from outside the state of New Mexico in a separate category.

NEW MEXICO FARM AND LIVESTOCK BUREAU

Statement of current
Wilderness proposals in New Mexico
now under consideration by the U. S. Congress

GENERAL COMMENTS

Included in this statement is the current policy of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau regarding proposed wilderness areas in New Mexico (see attachment 1).

We are opposed to any additional wilderness areas in New Mexico because ~~of several reasons including the following:~~

*The economic impact to New Mexico could be devastating (see attachment 2, an economic analysis of the effect of wilderness on ranching, timber and the recreational industry)

*The complete failure to document the need for further wilderness areas in our state.

*The concept of locking up areas to specific uses rather than a multiple use of the public lands which we strongly support.

*The fact that wilderness areas are only utilized by a small elite - turning them into defacto private playgrounds for the privileged.

*That wilderness areas in fact eliminate use of the public lands by the elderly, the sick and the handicapped.

*That the closing of these areas to multiple use will put additional pressure on the environment of the remaining multiple use public lands. ~~In other words limiting the supply of multiple use lands will place more demand on the e remaining lands.~~

*The fact that adequate studies regarding resources on these lands have not been made means that we could be locking up needed natural resources for years.

*The fact that the current inflationary impact on our society in areas such as food and housing and that homes are already a lost dream for many citizens and locking up timber means that the cost of new homes will become even more prohibitive to even the middle class of our country.

*The fact that even though cattle grazing is allowed in wilderness areas ranchers must utilize 19th century ranching techniques in trying to compete in an industry that is highly competitive. Also ranchers have been asked to rebuild their cattle herds in order to help stabilize food prices but the federal government with the multitude of BLM regulations and Wilderness proposals in fact do everything they can to reduce the herd size.

*The fact that with the current energy situation in the country it is obvious that the price of travel (gasoline) means projections regarding out of state visitors to our forests will be down in the future and in fact throws any study on recreational needs completely out the window.

*The fact that we feel that all areas put into further study category should be immediately transferred to multiple use status. RARE I and RARE II were meant to settle this question once and for all. There has been enough study on these areas and the further study proposal is nothing more than a bureaucratic cop-out. We feel that if these areas didn't have enough criteria to qualify for wilderness in January any further attempts to reclassify these areas shows a great deal of bureaucratic dishonesty and a form of passing the buck by the officials involved.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

According to a study by the state of New Mexico the Wilderness proposal would mean that 36,737 animal unit months of grazing, potential timber yield of 41.6 million board feet of timber, and 4000 days of recreation in the dispersed motorized category could be lost.

The figures for the current further planning recommendation are 16,631 animal unit months of grazing, timber yields of 18.3 million board feet of timber and 5,100 days of recreation.

Monetary figures (based on 1976 and 1977 levels) show that if all grazing was eventually eliminated, lost sales because of wilderness designation would be $459,212 per year. Given present cattle prices we feel that amount would now be more than twice as much. The monetary amount for timber lost to wilderness is set at $5.8 million and for recreation $58,000.

In the further planning area the amounts are set at $207,887 for grazing, $2.5 million for timber sales and $73,950 for recreation.

Using multipliers used by the Forest Service the direct and indirect loss figures show a loss of $688,816 for grazing, $10.5 million for timber harvest and $110,200 for recreation in areas designated for wilderness.

In the further planning areas the figures show direct and indirect losses to these areas of $312,682 for grazing, $4.6 million for timber and $140,504 for recreation.

The communities nearby these areas would have a total loss both of direct and indirect of $[illegible],282,216 for the wilderness designated areas and $5,063,787 for the further planning areas.

In its totality the RARE II program is just too expensive a sacrifice for the many small and medium size communities in our state.

Now proponents of the Forest Service plan claim this study did not take into consideration the economic benefits of wilderness. We would argue that any so-called benefits would occur in the government sector of the economy at the expense of the private sector.

We would envision some ranchers being forced out of business, the closing of many small businesses that currently depend on multiple use of these lands. We would hope that our Congressional delegation would not be in favor of putting New Mexico citizens out of business and out of work.

We would also point out that we are not talking about economic rape or pillage of these lands as some would argue. What we are taling about is the economic and social well-being of average and poor New Mexico citizens. As part of the human rights accorded citizens in our state and nation is the opportunity for the pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Those words do not just apply to the social well-being of our citizens but also to their economic well-being.

We would also point out that in the case of grazing, not only are ranchers the beneficiaries of the use of the public lands but so are the millions of consumers in this nation. And even though some grazing may continue, between this program and the programs of BLM grazing is being threatened in the Western States. Without this grazing each and every citizen of our nation will pay the final bill in the form of higher prices to the consumer.

To us it is hard to see the economic benefit to our nation in placing these lands in wilderness. Economic interest is not a bad word. It is especially not a bad word [illegible] you are poor or living on a fixed income today. To ignore the economic consequences of this program would be a tremendous folly. We must use the resources including grasses that are found in these areas wisely and we must harvest these renewable resources and the beneficiary will be all of the people of our state and our nation. To do otherwise would be taking our country back 200 years in time.

FOREST SERVICE PUBLIC IMPUT

We are extremely critical of the way the Forest Service sought public imput and then recorded it.

It was extremely difficult for the average citizen to understand the letter classification stating alternatives (A-J). Many people in utter frustration threw up their hands and just said no more wilderness in the state. Later these people would find out that their comments were lined up separately and that somehow their views were not as good as someone who wrote a letter.

We also object to the manner in which the so-called "W" proposal seemed to be given favored treatment in the recording of public comment.

We are upset that petitions etc. did not receive what we felt was adequate weight. We understand that we were not voting on it but the fact that citizens are asked for their public imput and then feel they are ignored does not lead to a situation that is ideal for government.

Along with this we would hope that the New Mexico Congressional Delegation does not completely ignore correspondence which does not fit the criteria you have asked for.

PUBLIC OPINION

We would also like to include (see attachment 4) a public opinion survey regarding wilderness. This survey indicates to us that many people who might favor the "wilderness concept" do not recognise the full ramifications, both economically and sociologically that go with wilderness designation. We feel that the citizens of New Mexico have not been fully educated in this subject as to the consequences of wilderness. We think this survey points that out.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

We would ask the Congressional Delegation before recommending a New Mexico RARE II bill to study the management aspect of wilderness areas in regard to fire control and the effect on surrounding multiple use and private lands.

Also we would ask that you look into the management end from the aspect of soil, water, air and noise control. We would say that we have heard stories that wilderness impacts on activities on surrounding areas and that this impact has not been fully addressed in any environmental impact statement. This is a grave concern to us if it is true and could have drastic effects on our state.

We would also ask that the delegation look into the subject area of what has happened in existing wilderness areas in relationship to soil and water management, wildlife habitat and related areas. We fear that this information should be widely publicized because we have heard stories that in many instances habitat has been destroyed and there are problems with watershed degradation.

It would seem to us that you can't really recommend more wilderness areas without knowing what has happened in those that already exist. We would again refer you to the Idaho problem with fires this past year as an example of our concerns in this area of management.

SITE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS

A 3069 Capitan Mountain

*We are opposed to including this area in the wilderness system and we recommend that it be returned to multiple use. The reasons for this opposition include the fact that there was no overwhelming concensus by people to include this area. In fact the Forest Service in their own report showed public opinion with 4317 people (commenting in one form or another) saying non-wilderness designation by a 55 percent margin to 44 percent.

Other reasons for opposition include the fact that according to a study, direct and indirect, dollar effect on the communities of Capitan and Carrizozo would be close to $30, 000 annually and it should be pointed out that the study based the cost figures (grazing, timber and recreation) on 1977 and 1976 prices which are needless to say way out of date.

Also as you well know the Lincoln Forest provides a great deal of recreation opportunities for the citizens of all New Mexico and West Texas and withdrawal of land into wilderness will increase recreational pressure on remaining multiple use land in the Lincoln Forest thereby raising the spector of degradation of that remaining multiple use land and forcing decisions down the road on reducing recreational activity in those degraded areas.

It should also be pointed out that the area has been ranked high in hard rock mineral potential and that in light of our current international problems attempts to lock up potential natural resources at this time are unwise to say the least.

Because of the high degree of recreational activity in the Lincoln Forest, attempts at policing the area if it becomes a wilderness would be extremely costly to the taxpayers of our country.

And because of the nature itself of a declared wilderness area the threat of fire in the Capitan mountains and the inability to control fire in a Wilderness area (i. e. the Idaho experience) the danger to the remaining areas in the Lincoln Forest would be grave if such a situation developed.

B 3070 White Mountain Wilderness Cont.

Again in this case (B 3070) we favor returning this area to multiple use category and we do this for a number of reasons. First, in public comment to the Forest Service there was no overwhelming concensus with non-wilderness sentiment running 55 percent to 44 percent for wilderness among all people who contacted the Forest Service (under section General Comments please see our comment regarding procedure Forest Service used to ask for public comment and then the manner in which it was recorded).

Although the study for the state of New Mexico on grazing, recreation and timber loss due to wilderness showed no effect it should be pointed out that the Forest Service, the United States Geological Survey and the New Mexico Bureau of Mines have all ranked this area as being high in mineral potential.

Also in the case of the White Mountain Wild. Cont. adequate study was not given to the problem of public access being blocked to nearby state and private land. This situation remains a problem with several areas that have been recommended for wilderness and in fact this public access to multiple use lands can be severely restricted.

For that reason and the reason of natural resources being locked up indefinitely and the fact that we have yet to see adequate evidence that wilderness is needed in this area we recommend B 3070 be returned to multiple use status.

O 3077 So. Guadalupe Mtn.

Again we recommend return to multiple use status and removal from consideration as wilderness. In the New Mexico study (which we have included) it is pointed out that the annual loss to the community of Carlsbad for grazing and recreation in terms of both direct and indirect cost is set at close to $35,000 annually. Again that is using 1977 figures, which means 40 cent calves and $14.00 a day for motorized recreation. Again we feel both figures are way out of line but represent the only figures available to the people who did the study.

With all people who commented to the Forest Service on the wilderness proposal the comments and signatures ran 55 percent non-wilderness to 44 percent wilderness.

Added concern for this area is one that we haven't been able to verify but we think it deserves looking into. It is our understanding that the Immigration Service and the Border Patrol have expressed some concern that this area contains a route for illegal aliens. Also another added concern (which is spelled out in more detail under our general comments) concerns the problems wilderness areas pose to nearby land uses and how the wilderness area can in effect determine management decisions on that land in areas that deal with noise, air and water. With the closeness of the oil and gas industry to the location as well as the town of Carlsbad and the potash mining industry this control could prove more harmful than anyone has even thought. (Again see our comments in the general section on this topic).

A 3105 Dome Cont. Band

Again in public comment this area was recommended in spite of a 64 percent to 35 percent ratio for non-wilderness versus wilderness and we agree with the public comment.

The estimated direct and indirect cost to Los Alamos for this area has been set at $53,000 for losses in the areas of timber and recreation.

Also the area under consideration is rated by the USGS as having very high potential for hard rock mineral.

Again the indirect control wilderness areas placed on nearby land is a major consideration with regard to this area.

B 3038 Pecos Wilderness Cont. & I 3038

We would point out that public comment ran 65 to 34 percent favoring non-wilderness status for this area and we also favor non-wilderness classification.

In the area of cost to communities for grazing, timber and recreation it is set at $3,315,978 for the communities of Espanola, Santa Fe, Pecos, and Las Vegas. We would submit that Northern New Mexico cânnot afford that type of economic loss today and we would add again that because of the nature of the figures used in the study the cost will be much greater.

In this case we must point out that who will benefit from this wilderness area (basically people in higher economic brackets who use the wilderness area) versus the adverse effects to the economies of local communities.

Again the USGS and the New Mexico Dept. of Mines indicates that this area has high potential for hard rock minerals and the effect on the Forest Industry would also be dramatic.

We would also point out that the historic use of fuel wood from this area by the people from Cundiyo, Chimayo and Cordova since 1595 when Cundiyo was established adds an element to this area that is unique and part of the culture of the state of New Mexico. Any disruption of this historic use would be a disservice to the history and culture of our great state.

B 3033 Wheeler Peak Cont.

All public comment to the Forest Service ran 67 percent to 32 percent favoring non-wilderness designation for this area. Again we would say that hardly constitutes a concensus for wilderness in anyone's book and this alone should have been enough to eliminate this area. It's the people of New Mexico that have to live with these areas and we favor non-wilderness for this area.

According to the New Mexico study the estimated direct and indirect cost to the communities from grazing and timber for Eagle Nest, Taos, Arroyo Seco and Valdez would be $152,232 annually. These are small communities that cannot afford that type of loss to their local economies and we point out once more that those figures are based on 1976 and 1977 figures.

The timber industry says they are concerned about this area and we would point out that wilderness designation for this area threatens water resource development, more specifically the Red River-Cimmarron River System transmountain diversion project.

This area has been rated by almost all involved (USGS, Forest Service, and New Mexico Department of Mines) as having high hard rock mineral potential and there is no doubt that the skiing industry of northern New Mexico would also be greatly effected.

With this area we have the concern of wilderness area management effecting land use of nearby land. Another concern we mentioned before is fire control in Wilderness areas. It comes into play with many of these areas in the Carson National Forest.

O 3031 Latir Peak

All Public comments to the Forest Service ran 69 to 30 percent for non-wilderness versus wilderness for this area. Again see our general comments regarding this public opinion, and even in the rigged public opinion the percent only dropped to 59 percent to 41 percent favoring non-wilderness designation. How any area can be included in our wilderness system with the general public clearly saying they don't want it is beyond our comprehension. We favor non-wilderness designation.

According to the figures in the state report regarding direct and indirect costs to grazing and timber for the communities of Questa and Costilla would be $313,275 or a whopping $241.91 per capita (it will be even higher with present day timber and grazing figures).

Hard rock mineral potential for this area again is rated from moderate to high by all three agencies contacted.

As in the case of most of the sites recommended, we also fear the wilderness management control on nearby land.

O 3009 Canadian River

All public opinion on this area ran 60 percent to 39 percent favoring non-wilderness over wilderness and we concur with that.

The cost to grazing in the state study and the indirect effect and direct effect on nearby communities for this area has been set at $56,000 for Roy and Wagon Mound. And in this case we have found other hidden costs that don't show up in the studies. One rancher (Warner Fluhman of Mills, New Mexico) has operations on both sides of the proposed wilderness site. Instead of going through the area from one operation to the other he will be forced to go around and add hundreds of miles weekly to go back and forth on his ranching operations. The time and cost involved in this will be prohibitive in many cases and think of the energy requirements for his operation. We are sure that this access problem will effect many ranchers and others in New Mexico in the case of almost every proposed wilderness area.

As you well know, this part of New Mexico contains some of the finest ranches and best grass in the entire state and that the ranching industry is the backbone of many of the small communities in the Northeast part of New Mexico.

O 3011 Whitington

All public opinion for this area to the Forest Service ran 65 to 34 percent in favor of non-wilderness over wilderness and we also favor non-wilderness designation.

The economic loss to Datil and Magdalena from direct and indirect losses has been set at $77,175 based on grazing and timber losses using 1977 and 1976 figures.

This area is given important emphasis by the Department of Energy in the oil and gas area according to a report by the state of New Mexico and in these times of energy crisis and international crisis it would be very unwise to lock this area up into wilderness designation. Again as in the case of all of the areas under consideration we would refer you back to our general comments and concerns.

O 3013 Apache Kid

All public comment for Apache Kid to the Forest Service ran 60 percent favoring non-wilderness status to 39 percent favoring wilderness. (We would again refer you to our general concern regarding the manner in which the data was collected and then recorded.) We also favor non-wilderness designation.

The economic loss from this area according to the state report from grazing, using 1977 prices, is set at $242,925 for the communities of T or C and Magdalena. It should also be pointed out that several other proposed areas impact on those communities and that the joint effect on all of these proposed areas is of major concern.

Again in another state report the potential for hard rock minerals is rated high by all three agencies involved.

But our chief concern with this area is the effect on grazing, which under wilderness situations must be done using 19th century methods. We find that this is not what ranchers want, and not what consumers will want at a time when the inflation in this country limits the amount of spendable income. It is also not a time to limit grazing when the President, the Secretary of Agriculture and every other elected official would like to see the cattle herds of this nation expanded. Depending on who you talk to the grazing AUM's involved in this area runs from 8,841 to 12,956 AUM's. This will not be a minor impact on the ranching industry in this part of the state and we are talking about small family ranching operations that will also be effected.

A 3156 Cont. Gila Wild.

Public comments from all people ran 68 percent to 31 percent for non-wilderness versus wilderness. Even if the Forest Service rigged recording of public comment sentiment ran 59 1/2 percent to 40 1/2 percent for non-wilderness. We also ask for non-wilderness designation.

According to the state report on grazing, recreation and timber effects of wilderness cost to the town of Reserve would be zero because of the small area involved (600 acres). But again in this case we feel that this is an area that has been identified as having moderate geothermal production potential and point out our concern on the effect of wilderness management on adjoining lands. The Forest Service also rates this area with high potential for minerals.

A 3162 Cont. Black Range

In this case public comments to the Forest Service ran 69 percent for non-wilderness and 30 percent for wilderness. We concur and favor non-wilderness.

Estimated cost to the communities from grazing, recreation and timber from wilderness designation has been set at $459,018 for T or C, Placitas and Monticello based on 1977 and 1976 figures. Again there is some disagreement on the AUM's involved but it is substantial running from 1,134 to 4,321. Again the indirect effect regarding access to nearby land and the management controls on that land based on wilderness management is of deep concern. We would also point out that this is the second area which impacts on T or C.

Again this area has been rated as one of moderate concern for hard rock mineral.

We would respectively submit that this area should be returned to multiple use category in the Forest Service.

P 3167 Gila Primitive

Regarding public comment on this area we do not have any report from the Forest Service on this in their December 1, 1978 data report but we would be willing to bet that the 69 to 30 percent ratio would hold.

Timber and grazing effects here once again force us to ask for multiple use for this area and elimination from wilderness consideration. Effects from this according to the state study show $1,983,093 in lost revenues for Silver City and Glenwood. In this case once again another concern is the pressure that will be put on remaining multiple use land in the area and possible degradation as that multiple use is concentrated on less and less land.

It is also our understanding that the area has been rated as having moderate geothermal potential and has been rated by the timber industry and the state government as having a role in that industry.

Fire control is another worry to us in the light of the Idaho experience.

We would emphasize the overwhelming disagreement with wilderness in public imput and recommend this area for multiple use and remove it from any consideration for wilderness classification.

P 3168 Black and Aldo

In the Forest Service December 1, 1978 report, public opinion for this area is not recorded but we would be willing to estimate that the results ran similar to other areas.

This area should be recommended for multiple use and removed from wilderness consideration because of the tremendous economic impact on the communities of Hillsboro, Kingston, T or C and Silver City. For grazing and timber we are talking in terms of $4,060,630 on an annual basis in lost revenues and that is using 1976 and 1977 as base years for the loss.

We have said before this is sacrificing the economic well being of small communities in our state for the benefit of a self-proclaimed elite of preservationists. We cannot afford as a state or a nation to take that type of step at this time in our history.

Again the state in a report has singled out this area as one of concern for our forestry industry. Again there is a tremendous disparity in the reported AUM's that would be effected with this area (running from 153 to 1500).

We are also concerned that the natural resource content of this area has not been adequately addressed or studied giving technological advances that are expected to be made during the 1980's.

P 3169 Blue Primitive

Again there is no indication of public opinion on this area in the Forest Service Report of December 1, 1978. But we feel strongly that communities involved and in contact with ranchers in the area that public comments overwhelmingly opposed inclusion of this area for wilderness classification. We ask that this area be excluded from further consideration for wilderness and return it to multiple use.

The impact of this area economically speaking on the communities of Reserve, Glenwood, T or C, and Silver City is set at $489,260 annually, based on 1976 and 1977 figures for grazing, timber and recreation.

Once again in looking at the entire RARE II recommendation package we feel that Grant, Catron and Sierra counties collectively speaking will have their economies severely damaged and that remaining multiple use land in those counties will suffer severe degradation as pressure for multiple use is concentrated on the remaining areas.

As with other areas in these counties the fire control problem and access to adjoining lands causes us many problems as well as the fact that we feel natural resources consequences have not been adequately explored.

O 3166 Cont. Blue Range

All public opinion during the RARE II study showed that by a 74 to 25 percent this area was favored as non-wilderness over wilderness. We would concur with that recommendation and favor returning this area to multiple use.

The economic effect to local communities of Reserve, T or C and Silver City of this area is set at $14,457 on an annual basis for grazing, timber and recreation which seems small but again in light of the entire wilderness proposal impact it represents too much for the area to absorb.

Again problems with fire control, access to adjoining lands and the increased pressure on surrounding remaining multiple use lands is of great concern to us as well as the overwhelming rejection of the public of placing this area in wilderness. The basic question in almost every area is whether or not a minority that cares more about concepts than human beings and economic welfare of people will be successful?

O 3139 Lower San Francisco

Without a doubt this is the most blatant example of power politics in the history of our state and an example of the problem of control of the future of our state and its destiny.

The Forest Service recommended that this area be opened to multiple use. The public agreed by a 68 percent to 31 percent margin, but an Ohio Congressman put this area back into consideration at the White House level. (A story regarding this blatant political act is included as attachment 3).

This area is heavily used by all types of recreationists including the sick, the elderly and the handicapped. And the so-called environmentalists would have this area put into wilderness to maintain this area as a private playground for the privileged and the rich.

It's a disgusting example of selfishness on the part of a small vocal minority and on a national effort by self-proclaimed preservationists who think of nothing more than in terms of victory or defeat and ignore the human factor in consideration of these areas.

We are absolutely opposed to this area being included and ask your help in returning this area to multiple use status.

Again this area would have a serious impact on the recreation industry in Grant county which is already under severe pressure.

SUMMARY

In summary all the areas under consideration as wilderness are opposed by the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau and we ask that they be returned to multiple use status as soon as possible. We have outlined many reasons for the specific areas and we believe they are all valid reasons. New Mexico already has more than its fair share of wilderness areas that provide more than enough area for the very small number of people who want a "Wilderness experience".

In our general comments we have included the overall impact of the entire wilderness proposal and we feel the economic cost to the citizens of our state is way too great.

FURTHER PLANNING PROPOSALS

PREFACE

We are opposed to each and every area currently proposed as further planning areas. We will comment on each one individually but we would point out that now is the time, once and for all, to end the uncertainty on our Forest lands. The Forest Service has had more than enough time to study and plan and we ask that all of these lands be placed in multiple use category immediately.

A 3070 White Mountain Wild. Cont.

Again we are opposed to the further planning designation and favor opening this area to multiple use. Public opinion on this area ran 55 percent to 44 percent in favor of non-wilderness designation.

In a state report the problem of public access to adjoining land is of extreme importance in this area.

Also the economic impact towards Carrizozo is not set at this point but we believe that the access problem raises enough questions that some economic impact is involved especially in regards to the high rating for minerals.

O 3072 West Face Sacramento

We favor releasing this area to multiple use and removal from further planning. Public comment for this area ran 56 to 43 percent for non-wilderness designation.

Cost to the community of Alamogordo is set at $131,438 based on 1976 and 1977 figures. Again there is some disagreement on the number of AUM's involved running from 850 to well over 2,000 AUM's.

Anyone familiar with this area knows that the wilderness value is extremely limited because of the nearby location of Alamogordo and Holloman Air Force Base. Also this area is heavily used by hunters and basically its inclusion is stupid when compared to other recommendations.

O 3074 Little Dog and Pup Canyon

Again we are opposed to the further planning proposal and recommend immediate placement of this area into multiple use.

Forest Service Public Imput ran 60 percent non-wilderness and 39 percent wilderness.

We would also point out that in a state report on this area that the DOE gives this area some important emphasis as an area for oil and gas and the Forest Service rates this high in the mineral area.

Economic impact for this area on Carlsbad is set at $37,562 for grazing and recreational losses. We also feel in this area there is some access problems that might arise on nearby and adjoining land.

D 3038 and H 3038 Pecos Wild. Cont.

We are opposed to including this area in further study and ask that it be designated as multiple use.

We would again refer you to public imput to the Forest Service which called for this area to be designated non-wilderness.

Also the N. M. Department of Mines and USGS have indicated a high potential for hard rock minerals in this area.

The timber industry also says that this area has high potential according to a state report.

Once again estimated cost to the towns of Espanola, Santa Fe, Pecos and Las Vegas is set at $109,253 based on 1977 and 1976 figures.

O 3098 Chama Wild. Cont.

We favor returning this area to multiple use status. Forest Service records show the public comment on this area ran 65 to 34 percent in favor of non-wilderness designation and the estimated direct and indirect income loss for this area is set at $25,388 for grazing, timber and recreation to the communities of Coyote, Gallina, Regina, La Jara and Cuba.

DOE gives this area high potential for oil and gas and the Forest Service ranks this area high for minerals according to a state report.

Again as in the case of many areas in Northern New Mexico, small communities are being asked to sacrifice for the sake of a small number of people. This area also has some uranium potential according to the state.

O 3099 San Pedro Parks Wild. Cont.

We ask that this area be dropped from further planning and be reclassified as multiple use. Again public imput ran 65 percent to 34 percent in favor of non-wilderness designation.

Estimated cost both direct and indirect of classification of this area as wilderness would run $204, 993 to the communities of Regina, Coyote and Cuba for grazing, timber and recreation losses. This area also holds some reservoir sites for the future storage of water for the Town of Cuba.

O 3102 Polvadera

We ask that this area be returned to multiple use and dropped from the further planning classification. Public imput to the Forest Service ran 65 to 34 percent for non-wilderness designation for this area.

Estimated losses to the communities of Canyones, Coyote and Espanola is set at $439, 048 in lost grazing, timber and recreation.

This area has been listed as having some geothermal potential and has much value as timber according to the state.

Again we would like to point out the cumulative economic cost to these small northern New Mexico communities when you look at the entire wilderness proposal by the Forest Service and the office of the President.

O 3104 Caballo

We favor returning this area to multiple use and removing it from future planning classification. This area is reported to have some geothermal potential and public imput to the Forest Service on this area ran an overwhelming 85 percent for non-wilderness to 14 percent for wilderness.

$515, 095 will be lost to Los Alamos and Espanola and surrounding areas on an annual basis according to the state.

B 3032 Columbine-Hondo

We favor returning this area to multiple use and removing it from the further planning classification. Public imput ran 66 percent non-wilderness to 33 percent wilderness for this area.

Forestry and skiing are two areas that will suffer greatly if this proposal goes through. Again we point out our concern regarding wilderness management that in effect controls land use on nearby lands. Fire control is another of our concerns with this area.

Economic loss for the communities of Eagle Nest, Taos, Arroyo Seco, Valdez and Red River is set at $3, 342, 357 on an annual basis from grazing, timber and recreation based on 1976 and 1977 figures.

Once again these communities cannot afford that type of loss and for that matter neither can the state of New Mexico

The Forest Service rates this area as high in mineral potential also.

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O 3004 Guadalupe

We oppose the further planning designation for this area and favor releasing it to multiple use which benefits the most citizens of our state.

Public imput backs us in this view with 60 percent calling for non-wilderness classification versus 39 percent.

This area has potential according to a state report for both uranium and oil and gas. Estimated loss to the town of San Ysidro and Grants is set at $6,882 and we agree with the recommendation made in the final RARE II proposal which placed this area in non-wilderness taking it from the further planning stage.

O 3008 Ryans Hill

We favor placing this into non-wilderness and multiple use and removing it from further planning. Public imput to the Forest Service ran 55 percent non-wilderness and 44 percent wilderness.

Estimated cost to Socorro and Magdalena is set at $72,488 on an annual basis for timber, grazing, and recreation.

This area is also ranked high in mineral potential by the Forest Service.

O 3110 Whitmore Canyon

We favor a non-wilderness designation for this area and are opposed to further planning classification. Although public opinion seems to favor this area for wilderness (59 percent to 40 percent) we feel that the people of Hidalgo county, because of their small population, were overwhelmed by out-of-county comment and out-of-state comment.

We feel this area lacks true wilderness potential and also the fact that it is such a small area (7600 acres) that the so-called wilderness experience would be lacking. We are also concerned with the access problem and the management control of nearby land.

Estimated cost to the communities of Animas and Rodeo is $53,568 but we would add that is a per capita cost of $535.68. Extremely high for a small county.

O 3200 Bunk Robinson Peak

We favor removal of this area from further planning and returning this area to multiple use. Public imput favors this by a 55 to 44 percent margin.

Estimated cost to Animas and Rodeo of this area would be $73,312 or a $733.12 per capita cost. Again we oppose this inclusion for Hidalgo county for many of the same reasons we oppose the Whitmore Canyon proposal.

As an added sidelight we feel that perhaps the Forest Service has attempted to tie this area and some other areas into the BLM wilderness program, thinking that nearby BLM land will be declared wilderness, thus making a larger area. We feel this is wrong and that each area should stand on its own.

O 3138 Hell Hole

We favor return to multiple use of this area and removal from further planning as did public imput which ran 74 percent in favor of non-wilderness designation.

Estimated cost of this area to Mule Creek and Silver City is set at $52,043 for grazing, timber and recreation according to a state study.

O 3139 Lower San Francisco

We favor dropping this from further study for the same reasons we gave for dropping the other portion of this proposal from the Wilderness classification.

Public imput supported this position by a 68 percent to 31 percent margin.

Again this is a high multiple use area and should not be closed off to the majority of our citizens.

ALTERNATIVE USES OF AREAS IN RARE II

We would recommend return of all the areas mentioned by site specific designations to management under the auspices of multiple use management.

Included in these management techniques would be the following:

1. Maximizing all uses of these lands for the public good while limiting degradation.

2. Maximizing the output of natural resources located on these lands for timber harvesting, grazing, mining and water resources and wildlife habitat.

3. Recognizing that grazing on these lands enhances wildlife habitat by providing sources of water and minerals for consumption by both livestock and wildlife.

4. An end to the no-management concept of wilderness currently being practiced.

5. A move away from controlled burning and especially a move away from the "let it burn" attitude that led to the Idaho fires last summer. It is ridiculous to allow vast areas of renewable resources to go up in smoke.

6. We favor the immediate release of all natural resources located in Wilderness areas in case of national emergencies. Along this same line we favor a complete review of strategic reserves of mineral deposits on public lands. This includes copper because of the use of that product in the expansion of solar energy.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION 1504

In closing we would like to add several other comments regarding this entire RARE II program. We have already mentioned several areas in which we feel pro-wilderness people were given unfair advantage in the RARE II process.

The so-called "W" proposal was one, the Lower San Francisco escapade was another, the manner in which public comment was recorded was another, the addition of the Gila Primitive and Blue Primitive at the last moment so the public comment was limited another.

And now, just recently, we have found out about Executive Communication 1504 which designates large amounts of land in the Gila and Blue primitive areas for wilderness. This communication was put out last May but has been apparently hidden by the Forest Service and the Executive Branch because no news releases (like the January 4, 1979 Forest Service release) were issued on it that we know of.

Again we are put in a position of not knowing really how many acres are involved statewide, which areas, the number of grazing units, recreational units, mining and timber impacts that are involved.

We are extremely upset at this latest development that wasn't brought to our attention until late December. The question we would like answered is why this communications wasn't as widely publicized as previous wilderness proposals?

To us it means one thing, a last minute end run by environmentalists and their allies in the Council on Environmental Quality and in the Forest Service. To our knowledge, no public meetings were held on this most recent proposal. The federal government in recent years has made a big to-do about public participation but in everything we have seen that has to do with RARE II every attempt has been made to circumvent that public participation.

We clearly recognize the fact that RARE II wasn't meant to be a public plebiscite on Wilderness but at the same time we can't help but believe that this entire RARE II program and wilderness was an exercise in futility for many New Mexico citizens because the outcome was cut and dry from beginning to end.

Needless to say only the Congress can correct this situation and stop this farce before millions of acres which belong to all citizens and not just a small minority are locked up forever.

SITE SPECIFIC COMMENTS

n Francisco--We favor elimination of this area from further study and return to multiple use. Reasons include the fact that the area was not recommended by the Forest Service during the RARE II process. Also the fact remains that the area is one that can receive heavy flooding and when that happens the canyon floor is almost completely washed away. The idea that this area is degraded by man in his vehicles is not only ludicrous but ridiculous because of the flooding in the canyon. In a way the San Francisco has become a symbol of the entire wilderness battle and is obviously unsuited for consideration. Furthermore enough studies have been done and to postpone a decision on this area will do no one any good and just keep the battle going.

ldo Leopold-- Again we ask for the deletion of this area as wilderness The impact on the grazing community will be severe and also you have locked up some private land within the borders of this area. Again there is already more than 500,000 acres of wilderness in these two counties (Grant and Catron) and they cannot afford to have any more because of the severe economic impact. In these inflationary times ranchers cannot be forced to use 1880 ranching techniques and hope to survive. We continue to also question the mineral resources that may be locked up in the area and the degradation to wildlife and watersheds that would be caused in this area if this area becomes wilderness.

Blue Range-- We ask for deletion of this area and its return to multiple use. Again reasons for this include many of those that applied to the Aldo Leopold but we would also add that much of the land that has been proposed in Grant and Catron counties has obvious non-wilderness characteristics including many ranch improvements. Also much of the land is more of a rolling hill type country which was never intended to be wilderness by those who passed the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Gila Wilderness Addition-- Again we favor the return of this area to non-wilderness status and the multiple use concept. Again many of the previously mentioned reasons hold true for this area. We believe that if you check into the wildlife population in the existing wilderness areas you will find that it has dropped. You will also find that the watershed has deteriorated. Another reason that the Catron and Grant county areas face an undue hardship is the fact that there will be tremendous pressure for non-wilderness recreational activities on the remaining multiple use land which you would decrease by over 350,000 acres by the Congressional RARE II plan. You will be placing tremendous pressures on that remaining land which could lead to policing problems on the part of the Forest Service and also could lead to degradation of the multiple use lands.

In closing we would add that we are including some comments from some of the ranchers in the area as part of our official comments. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Senator **Domenici**. Mr. Kulosa, Southwestern Forest Resource Affairs, Albuquerque, N. Mex.

STATEMENT OF ERWIN KULOSA, MANAGER, SOUTHWESTERN FOREST RESOURCES AFFAIRS, FEDERAL TIMBER PURCHASERS ASSOCIATION, ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

Mr. **Kulosa**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I an Erwin Kulosa. I will skip over and summarize much of my testimony. However, there are some points I would like to be sure I cover.

I noted the dependence that our industry has on the timber from the national forest lands, and therefore, our concern with the wilderness matter.

I noted that we didn't conduct any campaign as some groups have to flood you with petitions on postcards. But rather, we relied upon the previous responses from the public to the Forest Service RARE II program, which was something on the order of 3 to 1 opposed.

While the New Mexico congressional delegation has not seen fit to agree with the public's past opposition to the wilderness, it appears to us that the delegation has generally recognized that the roadless areas in New Mexico usually have much higher other multiple uses than wilderness.

We are pleased that section 5 provides for the return of unselected roadless areas to full multiple use and for a 10-year moratorium on further consideration of areas for wilderness designation.

We and the rest of our Nation need to make multiple use lands once again available for the production of goods and services they were originally intended to provide. We also need to set the wilderness matter aside for a decade or more in order that we may have time to learn what resources are needed most and how these lands can best contribute to the good of New Mexico and the United States. We strongly support this provision.

I think it is important to remember that these lands were originally set aside for the direct production of timber and water and the multiple use concept is a relatively new concept and, therefore, intrudes upon these areas that were originally intended for something else.

We are gratified that members of our industry in the southern half of New Mexico are not adversely impacted by the proposed wilderness designations, even though large areas of commercial forest land are included. We are also gratified that our recommendations on the Latir Peak and Wheeler Peak areas in the Carson National Forest were adopted, because the excluded areas are clearly better suited for uses other than wilderness.

As was noted by one of the gentlemen that preceded me, the east side of Latir Peak and the east portion near Wheeler Peak are heavily wooded and we would like to see that area remain available as it was once in the past for uses other than wilderness.

But for two exceptions, areas which have significant timber resources and other high multiple-use values have been properly rejected from further consideration for wilderness. Those two exceptions are the proposed Pecos Wilderness Area additions and part of the proposed Dome Wilderness Area.

Section 3(a)(8) proposes to designate another 70,000-acres to the Pecos Wilderness in the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests. The Pecos Wilderness is already a huge 167,416 acres that includes a vast area of commercial forest land.

The proposed 70,000-acre addition that borders it is slightly lower in elevation and contains some of the most productive forest land in New Mexico. The Forest Service estimates these 70,000 acres contain 354.5 million board feet of timber with a potential annual allowable harvest of 12.8 million board feet.

This is roughly equivalent to the wood products needed to build 1,280 homes each year.

It is also capable of providing 326 year-around jobs in logging, sawmilling, and related business in Rio Arriba, San Miguel, and Taos Counties, counties with chronic high unemployment.

Let me digress to point out that the area off on the west side of the Pecos especially is very heavily wooded and is not all that rough that it creates a problem. These areas were intended to be logged at one time in the past. It is simply that in the orderly course of development the Forest Service had not gotten to that area.

And this could be said of many of the other areas that would in time normally be developed, the area to the north of the Pecos, bounding that area. We feel that area is more valuable for multiple uses other than wilderness. And the long finger that reaches down west of the Pecos River looks to be 2 or 3 miles wide and about 18 miles long is a rather, as I see it, nearly unmanageable area for a special use such as wilderness.

It really doesn't lend itself to management as I see it. That is the area that is of greatest concern to us in this bill.

Secondarily, there is a small portion off on the south and west edge of the Dome Wilderness Area which we feel does not properly belong in wilderness. It is that portion which is south and west of San Chez Creek, 800 to 1,000 acres and we don't feel that that is appropriate. When the public did respond in detail to that particular area, some 73 percent in responding to the RARE II program were opposed to wilderness for that specific area.

We are pleased that none of the areas recommended by the Forest Service for nonwilderness were proposed for wilderness and that only one area is proposed for further study. Facts fully justify the decision to return the areas not named in this act to full multiple use.

Nonetheless, we are very concerned with the recommendations made by the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. Their recommendations range from excessive to absurd. Acreages have been inflated as a bargaining ploy to give the appearance that they are giving up something when the acreages are reduced, when, in fact, they have nothing to lose and can only gain. Such inflation is sure to expand areas to include land that is unqualified for wilderness and is better suited for nonwilderness.

The areas we are concerned about are the Polvadera, the Caballo, the San Pedro Parks addition, and the Chama and Columbine-Hondo.

This is a large area with a variety of other uses that could better serve the State. The Polvadera area is heavily timbered, heavily wooded.

On the fringes we have experienced an insect epidemic a few years ago due to what I feel was a reluctance on the part of the Forest Service to attack the insects in time, but which resulted in problems in the adjacent area.

I think with active management that could have been in better shape.

I would like to address a few statements made by a few of the earlier gentlemen that I think would clarify some things. On the further planning matter, it is my understanding that areas were often put into further planning because they didn't receive more than 71 percent support from the public for either wilderness or nonwilderness.

That was the first step in, I think, about a seven step process, and it did not necessarily remain that without further consideration.

There were six following steps. But it was the first cut. And I feel that further planning areas are as well known in terms of resources as those areas designated for nonwilderness or wilderness.

The same amount of data is in hand. It is just that there didn't seem to be any clearcut overwhelming preference by the public for one or the other, so it fell in the middle and, therefore, has involved further planning. I really don't feel that we need a lot of further planning areas.

I congratulate the delegation for not coming up with a lot of additional further planning areas. Mr. Stewart said that he doesn't feel there is need for commercial use or these areas would have been used by now.

I think I probably answered that by saying that they were in the orderly process about to be used. Given a few more years, these areas would have been used, would have been developed.

Senator **Domenici**. I think timber, properly managed and properly cut, explains itself in terms of whether it has been used. I mean, you obviously don't use all the timber that is usable in the country at any time.

You do from place to place.

Mr. **Kulosa**. That is correct.

Senator **Domenici**. You wouldn't assume that ever timberable area in any State has all been used at this point. There wouldn't be any left.

Mr. **Kulosa**. Yes. I think the national forest lands in New Mexico are some of the finest. I think they have been well managed and I don't see that they have been abused to the extent that they require wilderness type protection.

One other point. Mr. Hardie said he was concerned about having enough wilderness for future generations. I am concerned about having other resources as well.

I think that wilderness certainly needs to be recognized and provided for, but we need to provide other resources for future generations as well.

We are currently in a deficit situation insofar as wood is concerned. Twenty-five percent of our wood is being imported now, mainly from Canada. A little bit is being exported to Japan, but that is a minor amount compared to what is being imported.

A few years ago it was on the order of one-twelfth of our trade deficit. It probably will be more in the future as the housing market goes up here.

Insofar as timber is concerned, but probably even more so, mineral needs, I feel that we need to provide for our future generations all these other resources as well.

One last point. Mr. Lee referred to some of the changing definitions of what is eligible for wilderness. This concerns me.

We had a fairly clear definition of what constituted wilderness, what could proceed in those areas, and we have seen that loosened up considerably in the last 2 or 3 or 4 years with the onset of RARE II. We saw all kinds of other things being permitted in wilderness, and, therefore, it worries me that we are going to bring into wilderness many more areas than were previously considered, such as the Blue Range and the Gila areas that he mentioned.

The acreages are larger now because now other things may be permitted within wilderness. Thank you very much. That is the extent of my testimony. I would like to have the full text of my testimony entered into the record.

Senator DOMENICI. It will be admitted.

I didn't get a chance to read your testimony and you have just skimmed it for us. Do you have somewhere in this testimony each of the areas you object to, and do you have your assessment of the timber resources on them included here?

Mr. KULOSA. Yes, sir. As the bill stands right now, the only areas that we would feel would be adversely affected are around the Pecos area and a little bit on the Dome area.

Senator DOMENICI. Yes. But as far as the administration recommendation, do you have the other land that is not included in our bill—do you have it assessed?

Mr. KULOSA. Yes, and we would certainly not want to see any area that has been recommended for nonwilderness or further planning by the administration included.

Senator DOMENICI. But is the wood assessment contained in your testimony if we make this part of the record?

Mr. KULOSA. Yes. It is part of the testimony there. It is attached to my statenent.

Senator DOMENICI. I have no further questions.

Senator SCHMITT. Are you familiar with the firewood capacity of these areas that you are concerned about with respect to lumber capacity?

Mr. KULOSA. Somewhat. I am worried about possible conflict of fuel wood versus saw timber.

Senator SCHMITT. Well, normally, the Forest Service doesn't—where they can manage it, they don't really dome in conflict, do they?

Isn't the fuel wood usually very different by designation or—

Mr. KULOSA. Well, as it stands right now, there is very little conflict. The fire wood is generally pinon, juniper, which is unsuitable for saw timber and the public does pick up a good bit of the waste material, debris, slash that follows the logging, and that is beneficial in that it cleans up the woods and reduces the unsightly appearance that follows logging, reduces the fire hazard, reduces the insect potential.

That is all good, but I am a little worried that it may go far beyond that.

Senator SCHMITT. Do you have any idea on how many people are utilizing fuel wood from the areas under consideration?

Mr. KULOSA. No. I know the Forest Service does have statistics on those. They have issued within the last year I recall the number of cords that were removed from each forest, and I believe the number of permits.

It is rather substantial. It is a very large figure.

Senator SCHMITT. What areas right now is there—is there essentially a continuous harvesting of timber with cutting and replanting in New Mexico?

Mr. KULOSA. Well, it is ongoing on all the forests. The forests essentially have what is called a 120-year rotation, meaning that theoretically in 120 years you would have raised a tree from a seedling to a product, a tree that is harvestable in that time.

Senator SCHMITT. That is for the ponderosa; right?

Mr. KULOSA. Yes, sir. There is what is called a 20-year cutting cycle, which means that each area is visited roughly every 20 years and a tree or two or three or four are taken out per acre every 20 years, so each area is generally revisited every 20 years, and thus after 120 years, all the older trees would have been removed.

Meanwhile, you have new trees coming up.

Senator SCHMITT. Is the industry and the Forest Service replanting in these areas or are you depending on natural seeding?

Mr. KULOSA. Under the best of conditions and practice there should be natural regeneration. Where there are failures it is usually due to a rather severe removal that would be either following an insect epidemic or fire, something of that sort, and there isn't sufficient seed source to naturally replant the area.

Senator SCHMITT. I have heard that insect infestations have been very serious within the Pecos Wilderness as now designated. Is that true, to your knowledge?

Mr. KULOSA. I know there have been periodic blowdowns there where patches of trees have blown down and made things rather difficult for travel and have had some flareup of insects.

How extensive, I can't say. The San Pedro Parks recently experienced scattered blowdowns of trees due to some high winds and it touched off—I don't know that I should call it an epidemic exactly, because it didn't take everything, but it took a lot of additional trees as a result, partly because there wasn't any followup, any salvage because it is not permitted in the wilderness areas.

We can't go in there and take out the trees that have fallen over and died.

Senator **Schmitt**. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kulosa follows:]

STATEMENT OF FEDERAL TIMBER PURCHASERS ASSOCIATION
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES
OF THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ON S.2583, THE NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ACT OF 1980,
MAY 29, 1980 — WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Erwin Kulosa. I am Manager of Southwestern Resources Affairs for the Federal Timber Purchasers Association in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Our association represents six companies with seven mills that manufacture 85 percent of the lumber and employ 92 percent of the forest products workers in New Mexico. Approximately 2,500 persons are directly employed in the timber industry, mainly from minority groups in rural areas where there is chronic high unemployment. About twice that number are employed in related businesses.

Most members of the Federal Timber Purchasers Association depend on the national forests for more than 95 percent of the timber they use in their wood processing facilities. Therefore, they and their employees have a vital stake in the outcome of your deliberations and findings with respect to the designation of additional areas to the National Wilderness Preservation System. However, we have not conducted a "write-to-your-congressional-delegation-campaign" as a means to influence the decisions made in S.2583, a bill for the New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980. Rather, we have relied upon the tremendous response to the Forest Service's RARE II program as the best measure of the public's attitude toward the wilderness matter. We have hoped that the more than 3 to 1 opposition to more Wilderness would be recognized and honored by the Congress.

While the New Mexico congressional delegation has not seen fit to agree with the public's past opposition to more Wilderness, it appears to us that the delegation has generally recognized that the roadless areas in New Mexico usually have much higher other multiple uses than Wilderness. We are pleased that Section 5 provides for the return of unselected roadless areas to full multiple use and for a ten year moratorium on further consideration of areas for wilderness designation. We and the rest of our nation need to make multiple use lands once again available for the production of goods and services they were originally intended to provide. We also need to set the wilderness matter aside for a decade or more in order that we may have time to learn what resources are needed most and how these lands can best contribute to the good of New Mexico and the United States. We strongly support this provision.

We are gratified that members of our industry in the southern half of New Mexico are not adversely impacted by the proposed Wilderness designations, even though large areas of commercial forest land are included. We are also gratified that our recommendations on the Latir Peak and Wheeler Peak areas in the Carson National Forest were adopted, because the excluded areas are clearly better suited for uses other than Wilderness. But for two exceptions, areas which have significant timber resources and other high multiple-use values have been properly rejected from further consideration for Wilderness. Those two exceptions are the proposed Pecos Wilderness Area additions and part of the proposed Dome Wilderness Area.

Section 3(a)(8) proposes to designate another 70,000 acres to the Pecos Wilderness in the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests. The Pecos Wilderness is already a huge 167,416 acres that includes a vast area of commercial forest land. The proposed 70,000 acre addition that borders it is slightly lower in elevation and contains some of the most productive forest land in New Mexico. The Forest Service estimates these 70,000 acres contain 354.5 million board feet of timber with a potential annual allowable harvest of 12.8 million board feet. This is roughly equivalent to the wood products needed to build 1,280 homes each year. It is also capable of providing 326 year-around jobs in logging, sawmilling and related business in Rio Arriba, San Miguel and Taos counties, counties with chronic high employment.

The proposed addition to the Pecos Wilderness is more important to us than any other area in the draft proposal. Loss of this area is equivalent to 31.2 percent of the annual allowable harvest in the entire Santa Fe National Forest. It has more timber growing capability than any other proposed Wilderness area in New Mexico. In fact, it has half of the total timber volume and potential annual yield in all proposed Wilderness areas in New Mexico. Because of this, the economic benefit from timber alone is 65 times as great as the economic benefit from Wilderness. Other multiple uses, without Wilderness constraints, would doubtless push the economic benefit far higher. We are puzzled and concerned that the area surrounding the Pecos Wilderness containing greater timber resources and having more justification for remaining non-wilderness than any other single area should be proposed for removal from the commercial forest land base.

We have identified two general areas which we would not oppose for Wilderness. The two small areas in the Pecos River and Rio Mora canyons are steep and do not contain significant timber or other non-wilderness values to the best of our knowledge. The narrow area that bounds the Pecos Wilderness east from Elk Mountain and around Hermit Peak to John's Canyon is nicely forested, but is too steep to log economically.

Except for the two areas described above, we are strongly opposed to any addition to the Pecos Wilderness. Our position regarding this area is also generally supported by a majority of other interested New Mexicans. The Forest Service's tabulation of public response to the proposed addition showed that 534 favored Wilderness with boundary modifications, 1,495 preferred non-wilderness and 4 favored further planning. Thus, 73 percent were against more Wilderness in this specific area! It is vital to forest products workers and citizens and communities in northern New Mexico that this area remain available for full multiple use enjoyment as in the past!

The other area to which we take exception is in Section 3(a)(4), the proposed Dome Wilderness. We strongly advocate leaving the 1,000 acres west of Sanchez Canyon in non-wilderness because it contains a road, pumice mine and accessible commercial forest land. While we believe this area does not qualify for Wilderness, we doubt that addition of it would add anything to the quality or enjoyment of the proposed Wilderness. It deserves deletion.

We are pleased that none of the areas recommended by the Forest Service for non-wilderness were proposed for Wilderness and that only one area is proposed for further study. Facts fully justify the decision to return the areas not named in this Act to full multiple use. Nonetheless, we are very concerned with the recommendations made by the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. Their recommendations range from excessive to absurd. Acreages have been inflated as a bargaining ploy to give the appearance that they are giving up something when the acreages are reduced, when in fact they have nothing to lose and can only gain. Such inflation is sure to expand areas to include land that is unqualified for Wilderness and is better suited for non-wilderness.

In addition to the Latir Peak, Wheeler Peak, Pecos and Dome areas noted above, we are extremely concerned about five other areas that contain significant timber resources. In decreasing order of importance, they are the Columbine-Hondo, Polvadera, Caballo, San Pedro Parks addition and Chama addition. We strongly oppose addition of these areas and any expansion of the other areas proposed in S.2583.

We have given all areas containing timber resources exhaustive study. Information and data that should be helpful to you in deliberating this matter accompany this statement. We appreciate this opportunity to provide you with our views and invite your support.

INDIVIDUAL NEW MEXICAN'S ROADLESS AREA PREFERENCE

NATIONAL FOREST	I. D. No.	AREA NAME	NUMBER OF RESPONSES FOR WILDERNESS		
			WILDERNESS	NONWILDERNESS	FURTHER PLANNING
CARSON	3-031	LATIR PEAK	536	2048	3
	3-032	COLUMBINE - HONDO	826	2084	8
	3-033	WHEELER PEAK WLD. CONTIG.	748	2096	10
	3-034	CRUCES BASIN	574	827	2
	3-035	CANJILON MTN.	456	834	5
	3-036	BULL CANYON	247	827	2
	3-037	SIERRA NEGRA	237	253	3
	3-038	PECOS WLD. CONTIG	545	1495	4
	3-039	COMALES CANYON	245	1474	3
	3-999	OSIER MESA	239	826	0
SANTA FE	3-096	TESUQUE	39	647	2
	3-097	CORRAL	139	650	0
	3-098	CHAMA PROP. WLD CONTIG	175	644	1
	3-099	SAN PEDRO PARKS WLD. CONTIG.	208	706	2
	3-100	CANONES/PEDERNAL	156	642	0
	3-101	BARRANCA	22	76	0
	3-102	POLVADERA	239	696	0
	3-103	EROSION	181	124	1
	3-104	CABALLO	36	649	4
	3-105	DOME CONTIG. BNDLR. WLD.	275	700	4
	3-106	CAJA CONTIG. BNDLR. WLD.	191	73	1
	3-107	PERALTA	241	699	0
	3-108	VIRGIN	142	646	2

INDIVIDUAL NEW MEXICAN'S ROADLESS AREA PREFERANCE

NATIONAL FOREST	I.D. NO.	AREA NAME	NUMBER OF RESPONSES FOR		
			WILD-ERNESS	NONWILD-ERNESS	FURTHER PLANNING
GILA	3-143	THE HUB	21	1343	0
	3-144	BRUSHY SPRINGS	19	1360	0
	3-145	APACHE MTN	23	2290	0
	3-146	FRISCO BOX	219	2353	0
	3-147	BRUSHY MTN	18	615	0
	3-148	ASPEN MTN.	196	1886	1
	3-149	WAGON TONGUE	21	2348	0
	3-150	EAGLE PEAK	20	2347	1
	3-151	DEVILS CREEK	234	2356	0
	3-152	GILA BOX	220	2341	2
	3-153	ELK MTN.	18	2343	0
	3-154	T BAR	191	1368	1
	3-155	CANYON CREEK	21	2346	0
	3-156	CONTIG GILA WLD & PRIM	415	2367	3
	3-157	TAYLOR CREEK	177	1362	0
	3-158	STONE CANYON	18	1366	0
	3-159	WAHOO MTN.	18	852	0
	3-160	POVERTY CREEK	18	1366	0
	3-161	DRY CREEK	157	1370	1
	3-162	CONTIG BLACK & ALDO WLD	357	2353	1
	3-163	LAREDO	18	1332	0
	3-164	SAWYERS PEAK	175	1375	4
	3-165	MEADOW CREEK	21	2330	0
	3-166	CONTIG BLUE RANGE	205	2259	0

FTPA
9/18/79

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

AREA ID	AREA NAME	STD. ACRES	SPD. ACRES	MOD ACRES	DEPA. ACRES	TOTAL CPL ACRES	GROWING STOCK MMBF	TOTAL POTENTIAL ANNUAL YIELD MMBF
A3069	CAPITAN MTN	0	0	0	20,773	20,773	87.0	1.0
R3070	WHITE MTN WILD CONT.	0	0	0	990	990	?	0.1
O3077	S. GUADALUPE MTN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A3105	DOME CONT. BAND.	303	0	1551	0	1858	9.0	0.2
R3088	PECOS WILD CONT.	0	830	24,111	42,674	66,605	337.9	9.7
R3093	WHEELER PEAK CONT.	1,779	0	3,511	7,682	12,972	71.5	5.2
I3088	PECOS WILD CONT.	520	197	2000	4522	7,239	16.6	3.1
O3091	LATIR PEAK	852	58	1958	16,220	19,088	22.5	1.2
O3007	CANADIAN RIVER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O3011	WHITTINGTON	0	0	19,880	0	19,880	31.7	0.2
O3012	APACHE KID	0	160	5,580	5,940	11,680	18.1	?
A3156	CONT. GILA WILD.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A3162	CONT. BLACK RGE.	13,337	0	5,818	0	29,671	90.0	1.5
R3157	GILA PRIMITIVE	0	0	0	9,400	9,460	10.2	0
R3158	BLACK & ALDO	0	0	0	20,810	20,810	7.9	0
R3159	BLUE PRIMITIVE	11,500	987	7,353	1970	20,320	73.4	1.5
O3166	CONT. BLACK RANGE	333	0	0	0	333	0.9	0
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS TOTALS		29,113	1,744	65,673	127,447	223,977	729.7	23.7

NEW MEXICO FURTHER PLANNING PROPOSALS

AREA ID	AREA NAME	STD. ACRES	SPD. ACRES	MOD ACRES	DEPA. ACRES	TOTAL CPL ACRES	GROWING STOCK MMBF	TOTAL POTENTIAL ANNUAL YIELD MMBF
A3070	WHITE MTN WILD CONT.	0	0	0	990	990	0	0
O3072	WEST FACE SACRAMENTO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O3074	LITTLE DOG & PUP CANYON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O3088	PECOS WILD CONT.	0	0	0	17,978	17,978	?	0.1
R3088	PECOS WILD CONT.	0	0	1,607	0	1,607	2.8	0.2
O3098	CHAMA WILD CONT.	203	0	945	0	1,148	8.0	0.1
O3099	SAN PEDRO PARKS WILD CONT.	238	0	5,274	0	5,512	36.0	0.8
O3107	BLUEWATER	3,875	0	8,773	0	12,648	167.0	1.7
O3109	CABALLO	785	0	7,901	0	8,686	80.0	2.0
R3077	[illegible]-HONDO	3,950	0	6,480	29,597	40,027	61.5	13.2
O3006	GUADALUPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O3008	RYAN HILL	0	400	0	19,000	19,400	38.9	0.1
O3110	WHITMIRE CANYON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O3200	BUNK ROBINSON PEAK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O3137	HELL HOLE	829	22	0	0	851	2.7	0
NEW MEXICO PLANNING TOTALS		8,266	422	32,630	57,565	98,883	399.9	18.3
WILDERNESS & PLANNING TOTALS		37,379	2,166	98,303	185,012	322,860	1129.6	42.0

EFFECTS OF FOREST SERVICE RARE II RECOMMENDATIONS IN NEW MEXICO

NATIONAL FOREST	I.D. NO.	AREA NAME	C.F.L. ACRES	GROWING STOCK MMBF	POTENTIAL ANNUAL YIELD MMBF	FOREST SERVICE RECOMMEND.
CARSON	B3033	WHEELER PEAK CONT.	12,977	31.5	5.2	W
	I3038	PECOS WILD. CONT.	7,800	16.6	3.1	W
	O3031	LATIR PEAK	19,074	22.5	1.2	W
	B3032	COLUMBINE-HONDO	40,027	61.5	13.2	FP
			79,878	132.1	22.7	
SANTA FE	A3105	DOME CONT. RAND	1,254	9.0	0.2	W
	B3038	PECOS WILD. CONT.	66,605	337.9	9.7	W
	D3038	PECOS WILD. CONT.	12,978	?	0.1	FP
	H3038	PECOS WILD. CONT.	1,643	3.8	0.3	FP
	O3098	CHAMA WILD. CONT.	1,148	8.0	0.1	FP
	O3099	SAN PEDRO PARKS WILD. CONT.	5,512	36.0	0.8	FP
	O3102	POLVADERA	12,648	162.0	1.7	FP
	O3104	CABALLO	8,586	80.0	2.0	FP
			111,074	636.7	14.9	
LINCOLN	A3069	CAPITAN MTN.	20,773	83.0	1.0	W
	B3070	WHITE MTN. WILD. CONT.	990	?	0.1	W
			21,763	83.0	1.1	
CIBOLA	O3008	RYAN HILL	14,400	39.9	0.1	FP
	O3011	WHITINGTON	10,640	31.7	0.2	W
			25,040	71.6	0.3	
GILA	A3152	CONT. BLACK RANGE	20,574	90.0	1.5	W
	P3159	BLUE PRIMITIVE	20,820	73.4	1.5	W
			41,494	163.4	3.0	
GRAND TOTAL			279,249	1086.8	42.0	W&FP

C.F.L. = COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND
MMBF = MILLION BOARD FEET

FTPA
1-1

POTENTIAL EFFECT OF RARE II RECOMMENDATIONS ON POTENTIAL YIELD IN NEW MEXICO

NATIONAL FOREST	POTENTIAL ANNUAL YIELD (MMBF)							PERCENT REDUCTION IN P.A.Y. DUE TO RARE II ALLOCATIONS
	COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND COMPONENTS				RARE II			
	STD.	SPEC.	MARG.	TOTAL	WILD.	F. P.	TOTAL	
CARSON	26.35	.28	17.02	43.65	9.50	13.20	22.70	52.0
SANTA FE	37.32	3.70	48.25	89.27	9.90	5.00	14.90	16.7
LINCOLN	4.78	2.10	8.20	15.08	1.10	0	1.10	7.3
CIBOLA	5.60	.10	3.20	8.90	.20	.10	.30	3.4
GILA	23.14	.26	5.26	28.66	3.00	0	3.00	10.5
TOTAL	97.19	6.44	81.93	185.56	23.70	18.30	42.00	22.6

STD = STANDARD COMPONENT
SPEC. = SPECIAL COMPONENT
MARG = MARGINAL COMPONENT
WILD = WILDERNESS
F. P. = FURTHER PLANNING
PAY = POTENTIAL ANNUAL YIELD

SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

B3-038 Pecos Wilderness Contiguous

Of all the areas recommended for Wilderness by the Administration in Region 3, this area has the largest amount of commercial forest land (66,605 acres) and the greatest volume of timber (337.9 million board feet). Moreover, it contains much of the most productive forest land in the state of New Mexico. Its potential annual yield is estimated to be 9.7 million board feet per year. It is more important to us than any other single area in northern New Mexico.

The large area west of the Pecos Wilderness contains very heavy timber stands of outstanding quality on moderately sloping ground, especially toward the north end. The south end is divided into fairly level mesas with an excellent growth of timber and excellent management potential.

A strip of land one to two miles wide and almost 20 miles long stretches southwesterly from the Pecos Wilderness to near Glorieta between the Santa Fe River and the Pecos River. Timber volumes in this area range from moderate to heavy. Accessibility is good due to past logging and current mining and recreation roads. Continental Oil Company is doing considerable exploration in the area immediately adjoining this area. The area would provide a poor Wilderness experience because towns, roads, electronic installations, lookout towers, freeways, the Santa Fe Ski Basin,and the city of Santa Fe are clearly visible from much of this area.

The two small areas in the Pecos River and Rio Mora canyons are steep and do not contain significant timber or other non-Wilderness values to the best of our knowledge.

The long, one-half mile wide area that lies to the northwest of Elk Mountain was logged 30 or more years ago. However, it still contains considerable timber on gentle slopes with stable soils. This area does not meet past, normal Wilderness criteria and clearly should never have been given further consideration for Wilderness.

The narrow area that bounds the Pecos Wilderness east from Elk Mountain and around Hermit Peak to John's canyon is nicely timbered but is too steep to log economically. The small remaining area north of John's should be returned to non-Wilderness.

The south half of the isolated area along the east boundary of the Pecos Wilderness, which lies due west of Mora, contains currently operable timber. The north half is heavily timbered but is on very steep ground. The mere configuration and location of this protrusion alone does not lend to adding this area to the Wilderness.

I3-038 Pecos Wilderness Contiguous

This area contains considerable timber on gentle to moderate slopes with stable soils. Logging has occurred along and within parts of this area in the past. Old logging roads extend up to the Pecos Wilderness. It is very important to us that this entire area be returned to non-Wilderness, because it is a very productive area that contains 16.6 million board feet of sawtimber on 7,800 acres of commercial forest land, with a potential annual yield of 3.1 million board feet.

H3-038 Pecos Wilderness Contiguous

The Forest Service has recommended that this area be given further study. It contains 1,643 acres of commercial forest land with 3.8 million board feet of sawtimber and a potential annual yield of 300,000 board feet. Although much of the area is steep, the area north of Rio Frijoles in Sections 25, 26, 35, and 36 has very gentle slopes with excellent operable stands of timber. It should be returned to full multiple use (non-Wilderness).

D3-038 Pecos Wilderness Contiguous

This area contains the Santa Fe River watershed and has been recommended for further study by the Forest Service. It consists of a long, narrow strip of Federal land that stretches from the Pecos Wilderness to the city of Santa Fe. The Forest Service has not inventoried the timber thereon, but it is known to be above average in volume per acre and quality. Part of this area was logged in the past. Configuration of this strip alone should eliminate this area from further consideration for Wilderness.

A3-038, C3-038, E3-038, F3-038, G3-038, N3-038 Pecos Wilderness Contiguous

All of these areas have been recommended for return to non-Wilderness by the Forest Service for a variety of reasons. They contain prominent signs of mankind, such as roads, electronic installations, and evidence of past recreation, mining and timber harvest activities. Such development is clearly beyond every reasonable definition of Wilderness. In addition, these areas have very high mineral, timber, and developed recreation values.

3-038 Pecos Wilderness Contiguous

In summary, with few exceptions, we regard the area surrounding the Pecos Wilderness best suited to serving the non-Wilderness needs of New Mexicans and our nation. Removal of it from the commercial forest land base would have a strong impact on the timber yield and job potential on the Santa Fe National Forest.

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The areas recommended for further planning on the Santa Fe National Forest are very important to the timber industry also. They are listed here in decreasing order of impact:

3-102 Polvadera

This amoeba-shaped area has the heaviest volume of timber per acre of all the areas studied in New Mexico. It is said to contain 162 million board feet on only 12,648 acres of commercial forest land. This volume is largely concentrated in dense spruce stands that are double the average volume per acre. The slope of the ground is very agreeable to timber management except for the limited slopes of Polvadera Peak itself. The forest immediately adjoining this area contains very prominent evidence of timber harvest that would strongly affect the desirability of designating this area as Wilderness. The small size (15,480 acres) and irregular shape of this area should invalidate this area from all serious consideration of it for Wilderness. We fear that if this area were to be designated Wilderness its proximity to the adjoining prime timber area would result in buffers and management restrictions that would severely reduce the productivity of forest land currently under management.

3-3108 Caballo

This area is close to Los Alamos. Therefore, it is very interesting to note that this center of environmentalism did not support this area for Wilderness when providing input to the Forest Service's RARE II draft environmental statement. Only 36 people were for putting the area in Wilderness, but a whopping 649 people were for keeping it in non-Wilderness. This may be because it has a good potential for providing the city with developed recreation areas. We, too, are interested in keeping it in non-Wilderness, because it has 8,686 acres of commercial forest land with 80 million board feet of sawtimber capable of sustaining a perpetual annual yield of 2 million board feet.

3-099 San Pedro Parks Wilderness Contiguous

This area is a strip of land that borders the west boundary of the existing San Pedro Parks Wilderness. Putting this area in Wilderness would add no use or enjoyment to the use of the San Pedro Parks Wilderness,because it simply adds a narrow fringe that slopes sharply down toward the town of Cuba. However, it would eliminate 5,512 acres of commercial forest land containing 36 million board feet capable of producing 800 thousand board feet every year. The land would be put to its highest and best use by keeping it in non-Wilderness.

A3-105 Dome Contiguous Bandelier

This area adjoins the western boundary of the Bandelier National Monument at its southern end. Most of the area could be put into Wilderness with no adverse affect upon timber potential yield. However, we strongly advocate leaving the 800 to 1,000 acres west of the west rim of Sanchez Canyon in non-Wilderness, because it contains a road, pumice mines, and commercial forest land.

3-098 Chama Wilderness Contiguous

This consists of three separate areas along the edge of the recently established Chama River Wilderness. We are especially opposed to the area at the south end because it is good, easily accessible commercial forest land atop the mesa, and this does not complement the existing Wilderness which lies entirely below the mesa.

The middle area along the Rio Gallina is on a rugged, south-facing slope with a below average volume of timber. We would, nonetheless, prefer to see this area remain in non-Wilderness. The portion at the north end in the Chama canyon is not accessible for timber management.

PECOS WILDERNESS CONTIGUOUS
Area 03038, Carson and Santa Fe National Forests

This Area is very large and consequently landforms and ecotypes vary to some degree. For ease of discussion, this area has been divided into four sections or regions. Region A is on the north side of the Pecos Wilderness, mostly on the Carson National Forest. Region B contains the proposed additions on the east and southeast. Region C on the south and southwest side of the Pecos Wilderness contains the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed. Region D contains the canyon country on the west and some exceptional timber in the northwest. Regions B, C and D are in the Santa Fe National Forest.

Grazing and dispersed recreation occur throughout most of the area. There are old logged areas, a recent clearcut, and several old millsites. With few exceptions, the entire area is operable for timber harvesting. There are critical mineral resources in several places.

Region A which is primarily on the Carson National Forest has had quite a bit of tie cutting in it from the 1920's. The approximate boundary of the logging is marked on the sketch. There is a twenty-acre clearcut from the early 1970's at Ojo del Oso, immediately west of the northern tip of the Pecos Wilderness (Section A). Volumes in this area are near 20,000 board feet per acre on slopes of 20-40%. Soils are stable.

The part of Section B that is nearest to Jicarita Peak is above timberline. Santa Barbara Canyon, above the campground, has a wide, well traveled trail. Most of the canyon area has rocky outcroppings without much timber. The rest of the section has good quality timber on slopes of 20-40%. The soils are quite stable. The timber is mixed conifer (mostly spruce) with large stands of aspen that are of commercial quality. Volumes are in excess of 20,000 board feet per acre. The recreation impact in this section is significant, resulting in soil compaction near the campground and along some of the trails. The section also contains at least one old sawmill site and one other sawmill site on the boundary, the approximate locations of which are marked on the sketch. There are old logging roads that extend into the area in several places.

Adjacent to Section C is a marked timber sale scheduled for sale in 1980. A good part of this section was also logged approximately fifty years ago, but the effect was more dramatic than in other sections. It appears that more volume was removed in this section, because there are not many old growth trees left and commercial volumes are only at 12,000 board feet per acre. The effect in the resultant understory was dramatic. It is very thick and stagnant and needs timber management desperately. Historically, this area would have been thinned or eliminated by fires. The area is not very attractive recreationally at this time due to this understory. Topography is rolling with slopes mostly 20-30% on fairly stable soils. There is an old, rutted logging road that extends through the area up to the Pecos Wilderness area.

Region B surrounds the southeast corner of the Pecos Wilderness. On the eastern side (Section A), it appears that a natural landform feature (a high, steep ridge) was used to establish the Pecos Wilderness boundary. The proposed addition in this section is composed almost entirely of east-facing slopes and ridges that come down from that high ridge. The new boundary would be difficult to enforce because there is no natural physical boundary. This section is bounded on the east by a lot of private land which makes trespass hard to enforce on the adjoining public lands. Slopes in Section A are from 20-40% on fairly stable soils. The timber is mostly spruce at 18,000 board feet per acre. Large stands of aspen are on the verge of commercial size and value already. The resources in this section would be very easy to manage. Topography and access would be no problem.

Section B1 and B2 are mostly on a long ridge with tributaries to the Pecos River on the west side and the headwaters of Tecolote Creek on the east side. Section B1 is on the lower end of the ridge with timber volume of 15,000 board feet per acre of mixed conifer with pine. This is on slopes of 5-30% on stable soils. Significantly, a road, which approximates the location of Trail 251, bisects the area.

There are cattle in this section and Section B2 in the many large open meadows. There is an old corral at the end of the short road (water barred) that extends in from the west side of the section.

Section B2 has timber volumes which are substantially higher than in Section B1, most of it being old growth mixed conifer. The normal timber volume is 30,000 board feet per acre. Volumes are a little less in the very steep drainage slopes. Soils are quite stable. Slopes range from 10-50% over most of the area. The eastern portion of this section has many canyons that are timbered. There is no evidence of logging, but there is an established mine that has been excluded by a winding corridor. There is also an established campground that is accessed from the southeast.

Much of Section C is a north-facing slope (sloping toward the Pecos Wilderness) that was very evidently logged thirty or more years ago. There is 20,000 board feet per acre remaining in this area. Soils are stable, with slopes of 10-30%. Elk sign is heavy in this section due to past logging.

Region C contains the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed and the western tributaries of the Pecos River. The northern part of this region (immediately south of the Pecos Wilderness) is a heavily impacted recreation area, both in campground and summer home use. Much of the region is grazed and has been logged in the past. Residents in the area state that the area around Indian Creek has been logged two or three times in the past.

There are old logging roads and stumps in the area to support this fact. Continental Oil Company is, and has been, doing extensive mineral prospecting in the Indian Creek area. Drilling platforms are being cleared and levelled in the vicinity. Old diggings, including old cans and garbage, are found within the boundaries of this area. There is also a very new, cleared (with chain saw) survey line that is oriented on a basically east/west line just north of the Jones Mine.

Slopes throughout this region are from 30-50% on soils that are fairly stable. The area above Black Canyon Campground has soil slump retainers dug into the hillside. These are within the so-called roadless area boundaries. Timber ranges from mixed conifer with pine, to almost exclusive pine at the lower elevations. All of the timber in this region is accessible, loggable, and would respond well to management. Timber volumes range from nearly 20,000 board feet per acre northwest of the Indian Creek area to 15,000 board feet per acre near Glorietta Baldy Lookout. The region has stands of commercial quality aspen. Areas that have been disturbed or substantially logged show excellent natural reproduction.

A "wilderness experience" removed from Man's influence would be very difficult in this area because high points look down on many towns and roads, including Santa Fe and several highways. There is a constructed reservoir (excluded by a corridor), the lookout, an electronic installation (on northwest border), as well as the Santa Fe Ski Basin that are visible from much of the region. The vicinity of Glorietta Baldy Lookout is also very heavily impacted recreationally, with a fair amount of litter visible.

Region D is on the west side of the Pecos Wilderness. It contains two fairly large parcels of private land. Chimayo Boy Scout Camp is on the western border of Section A and there is a new helispot on the boundary near Borrego Mesa Campground.

This section is characterized by narrow mesas with 15,000 board feet per acre of pine and douglas fir. With access, management of the fairly level mesa tops would be rewarding.

Section B has fantastic timber. It is covered with old growth, virgin mixed conifer. There is very little aspen. This section contains deep drainages with slopes of 30-60%, which are rather uniform and not roughened by rocky outcroppings. The very excellent quality timber is conservatively estimated to be 25,000 board feet per acre. The pine is in need of management because it is heavily infested with Dwarf Mistletoe. The Medio Trail from Borrego Mesa Campground to the Pecos Wilderness is heavily impacted by heavy horse traffic.

This section has excellent potential for timber management. Adjoining areas that have been logged have experienced phenomenal natural regeneration.

POLVADERA
Area 03102, Santa Fe National Forest

For ease of discussion, this area is divided into two sections on the accompanying map. The intervening unlettered section, including Polvadera Peak itself, is covered with aspen and brush. This area is not very scenic but rather monotonous from the ground itself due to the extremely dense stands of timber. Polvadera has the best overall timber resource of either the Santa Fe or the Carson National Forests, except possibly one or two restricted sections of the Pecos Wilderness Contiguous Area. Timber throughout the area is very manageable and easily logged with current methods.

Section A has tremendous volumes of timber. The area is comprised of virgin old-growth mixed conifer with some aspen. It is further characterized by stable soils on 30-50% slopes. Volumes are in excess of 30,000 board feet per acre and may possibly approach 40,000 board feet per acre in some areas. The area is very unappealing to the normal recreationist. A fence extends through the southern lobe of the area.

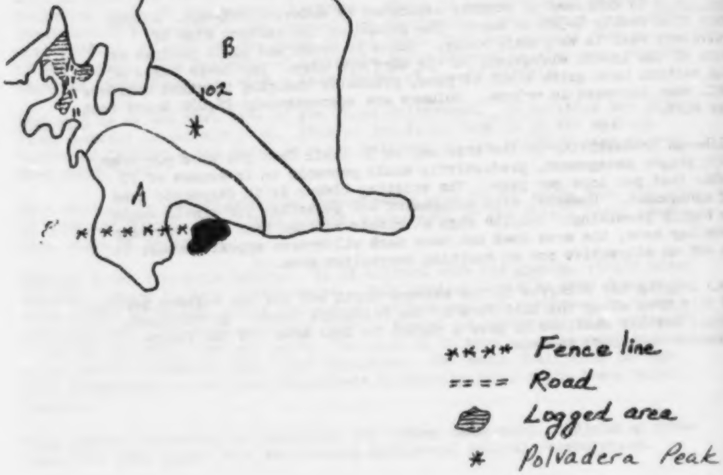
Section B is composed of benches separated by moderate canyons. Slopes vary from nearly 0-30% or more. The ground on the eastern side of Polvadera Peak is extremely rocky. There is brush and pinon juniper on some of the lowest elevations on the northern edge. The lower parts of the section have quite a bit of pine, gradually changing to mixed conifers with some increase in volume. Volumes are approximately 25,000 board feet per acre.

Although productivity in the area may be 30 cubic feet per acre per year, with proper management, productivity would probably be in excess of 50 cubic feet per acre per year. The existing timber is in desperate need of management. However, with management the potential for growth would be highly promising. Despite high attribute ratings that this roadless area may have, the area does not have much wilderness appeal because it is not an attractive nor an exciting recreation area.

Some logging has occurred in the extreme north end and the western portion of this area along the East Fork of the Polvadera Creek. In addition, spruce beetles continue to pose a threat to this area and the timber resource contained therein.

Santa Fe N.F.

102 - Polvadera


B
102
A
F
**** Fence line
==== Road
▨ Logged area
* Polvadera Peak

CABALLO
Area 03104, Santa Fe National Forest

Most of this area occurs in one drainage system on the south side of Caballo Mountain. Slopes are 20-40% on stable soils. The entire area is very accessible and in need of timber management. The western two-thirds in the higher part of the drainage system is old-growth, virgin mixed conifer with some commercial aspen. The eastern third has mostly pine and shows some indications of logging. Volumes range from 25,000 board feet per acre in mixed conifer to 15,000 board feet per acre in pine. Adjacent disturbed areas have excellent natural regeneration.

The Caballo Area is some of the best timber in any of the Santa Fe National Forest roadless areas. The area would be very difficult to manage as wilderness due to the very easy access provided by the Pipeline Road that is along the southern perimeter. The landform does not provide any easily enforced natural boundaries. The southeast corner of the area is immediately adjacent to Los Alamos. There are also some four-wheel drive trails in this section. There is fairly substantial dispersed recreation in the area. Other matters which should render this area unsuitable for wilderness designation are a reservoir and the potential for a geothermal energy.

SAN PEDRO PARKS WILDERNESS CONTIGUOUS AREA
Area 03099, Santa Fe National Forest

This area consists of a series of rather narrow ridges that run basically east and west, sloping downward from the east to the west from the San Pedro Parks Wilderness Area. Slopes are generally 30-40%. Timber is almost exclusively on the northern aspects, mostly pine with some douglas fir. The southern and western aspects are covered mostly with oak and aspen. Commercial timber volumes in the area are approximately 12,000 board feet per acre. There has been recent logging in and around the northern end of this area. This logging activity (possibly trespass) is very recent and very messy.

This area has a high potential for critical minerals.

DOME, CONTIGUOUS TO BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT
Area 03105, Santa Fe National Forest

As a potential wilderness, this area is a total farce, because it contains numerous old and new roads. Logging has been extensive throughout the area. During the summer of 1978, the sound of a skidder and logging trucks were fairly audible throughout the area from the Lookout north. Evidence of thinning is extensive in the areas that have not been logged for saw timber or salvage. The northeast portion was logged between 1977 and 1978. Volumes are approximately 30,000 board feet per acre.

The Dome area should never have been given serious consideration in the RARE II study. Evidence of mankind's activity is considerable throughout the area. Current road construction and timber harvest activity render this area totally unsuitable for inclusion in this RARE II study.

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

B3033 Wheeler Peak Contiguous

This consists of three separate areas adjoining the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. While all of these proposed areas contain a heavy volume of timber, we stand in full opposition to adding the eastern and middle sub-areas to the Wilderness System, because they lie on gently sloping land -- gentler than the private land managed for timber to the east. The eastern sub-area is particularly important to us. These same areas have a high potential for developed recreation. The largest sub-area, which lies to the west, is also heavily timbered but is too steep to manage for timber. Provision should be made, however, to keep the portion that may be considered for eventual enlargement of the Taos Ski Area in non-Wilderness.

3-031 Latir Peak

Most of the operable commercial forest land in this area lies east of Lake Fork and should be kept in non-Wilderness. (Lake Fork is the stream that fills Cabresto Lake.) This is a minor portion of the entire area. The area west of Lake Fork is very steep and contains a few pockets of timber that would be considered inoperable at this time. However, the western edge has seen mining activity in the past that may indicate mineral values not fully considered. We feel strongly that the area east of Lake Fork should be kept open for timber management and other multiple uses.

B3-032 Columbine - Hondo

This is a huge area that the Forest Service has recommended for further planning. It contains 40,027 acres of commercial forest land with a saw-timber volume of 61.5 million board feet and a potential annual yield of 13.2 million board feet, according to the Forest Service. However, we believe the true figures are much higher. In addition to currently operable timber, the area is also valuable for critical mineral resources, grazing and developed recreation. Therefore, it is of critical importance to us that this area to be returned to non-Wilderness in order that it may contribute fully to multiple use.

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Three areas on the Carson National Forest that the Forest Service has recommended for non-Wilderness deserve extra comment. These are: 3-999 Osier Mesa, 3-034 Cruces Basin, and 3-035 Canjilon Mountain. These are areas coveted by preservationists despite overwhelming evidence that these areas do not even meet the liberal, expanded definition of Wilderness used in RARE II. All of these areas have been and are today still accessible to four-wheel drive, and perhaps two-wheel drive vehicles. In addition to significant stands of timber, they possess even greater value for grazing and developed recreation. It would be a tragedy if the multiple-use these areas have had is denied through Wilderness designation. Area 3-039 is important to us because it is heavily forested. We are not well acquainted with Areas 3-036 and 3-037 because they have little or no timber resource.

WHEELER PEAK WILDERNESS CONTIGUOUS
Area 03033, Carson National Forest

The western section of this area is very steep and rocky, with slopes of 30-60%. The Hondo Canyon vicinity (north edge) has many large outcroppings of rocks. The western finger of this section is covered with pinon juniper, while much of the southeastern part is above timberline. There are large patches of aspen throughout the section. The drainage of the South Fork of Rio Hondo has slopes of 40-60%. This drainage contains most of the timber in this section, with volumes up to 20,000 board feet per acre of mixed conifer.

The eastern section of this area is divided into two drainages, the East and Middle Forks of the Red River. Vegetation throughout the section is mixed conifer. In the Middle Fork area slopes are 40-60%. There is much dispersed recreation and significant impact in the Middle Fork Lake area. This area has volumes of approximately 18,000 board feet per acre, and has forest land capable of being cable logged. The East Fork drainage contains the Elizabethtown Ditch and one mile of fencing in the Sawmill Park (southeast corner). Sawmill Park also has two short spur roads into it. There is a road up East Fork to the "Ditch Cabin". This drainage has good timber in it and is loggable today. Slopes are less steep, and the soils are more stable than on the Middle Fork. The total volume in this section is approximately 140,000,000 board feet. The area is being grazed and may have mineral resources.

Because of the prevention of fire in this area, there needs to be an alternative form of management to protect the timber resource. This area would respond favorably to proper management to increase timber productivity and wildlife habitat. Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep would not be pressured because their habitat does not include commercial quality timberland. The eastern section is a key recreation area for the Red River tourist industry.

LATIR PEAK
Area 03031, Carson National Forest

Slightly less than 20 percent of this area is crest zone. Section A, delineated on the sketch, is economically operable by current methods at this time. Slopes in this section vary from 20-50% on soils that are moderately stable. The timber in this section is beyond maturity. This is evidenced by a large number of trees which are in the process of blowing down. The eastern portion of this area has stands of young aspen.

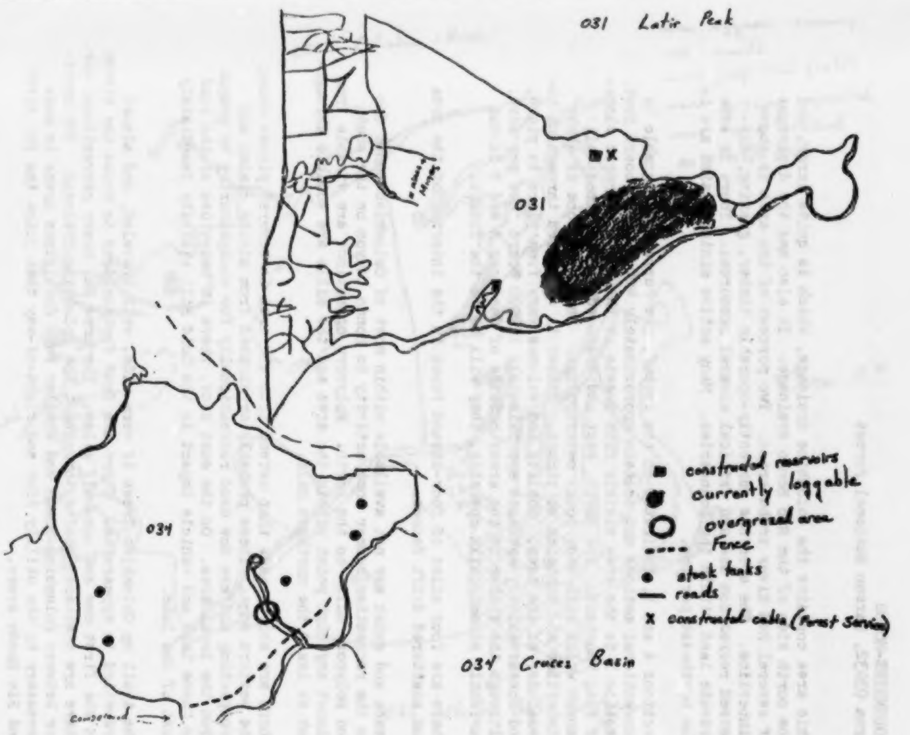
The area west of Section A is cut by a number of large, steep, rocky canyons. The timber is mixed conifer with lots of pine. Slopes vary from 30-60%. The timber in this area is marginal at this time, but will be economically operable in the future.

There are roads that extend into the area in several places on the western edge. These roads lead to developed mines. In Rito Primero Canyon and Rito del Medio Canyon are care sites that have been leveled. There are 3 miles of fence in the interior.

Cabresto Lake and Heart Lake are constructed reservoirs. There is a heavily used trail between the two lakes. Baldy Cabin, near Heart Lake, is a Forest Service constructed structure. Grazing through most of the area has been moderate. Recreation impact is heavy around the reservoirs and the Midnight/Mallette area at the eastern end. These areas are important to the people in Red River.

The lights of Questa, Cerro and Molycorp are visible from most of the higher portions of the area. The sound of Molycorp mills are audible through most of the area except for the northwest triangle.

Management for timber and other resources will not harm Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep habitat endeavors to any great degree because they do not occupy the same environmental niches. Section A is in desperate need of management because of the large amount of timber that is being lost to wind and old age. For timber and developed recreation purposes, the area east of a line one mile west of Cabresto Lake, up Lake Fork to Baldy Cabin and Heart Lake and Latir Lakes should remain open to multiple-use. Timber volume exceeds 100,000,000 board feet.


031 Latir Peak
031
034 Cruces Basin
034
■ constructed reservoirs
● currently loggable
O overgrazed area
---- Fence
• stock tanks
— roads
x constructed cabin (Forest Service)
Campground

COLUMBINE-HONDO
Area 03032, Carson National Forest

This area contains the Columbine drainage, which is quite large, and the north side of the Rio Hondo drainage. It also has the drainages of several Red River tributaries. Two percent of the area is above timberline. The area has currently-operable timber, grazing, dispersed recreation use and critical mineral resources. There is some private land within the boundaries. Many active mining claims are in the northwest portion.

Sections A and B, indicated on the sketch, are currently loggable by conventional methods and contain approximately 400,000,000 board feet. Section B is the area visible from Questa on the north and west slopes of Flag Mountain. The north, east and south edges are almost all canyon walls with many rocky outcroppings. The crest zone is above timberline and contains no timber. Timber is scattered throughout the remainder of the area. Quality and volumes vary from place to place, and conservatively averages approximately 12,000 board feet per acre. Although the timber in the areas outside of Sections A and B is not currently economically operable, they will be in the future.

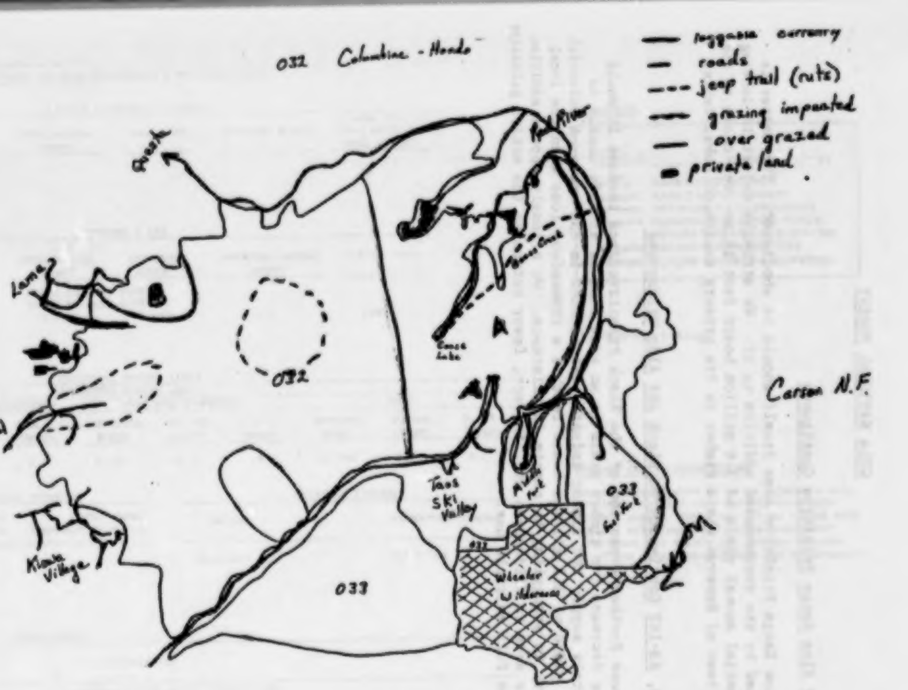
There are four miles of four-strand fence in the interior of the area and scattered drift fences.

Peace and quiet are not available within most of Columbine-Hondo due to the recreation/summer home activity in Hondo Canyon on the south and Molycorp mills on the north. Molycorp operations are visible from almost any high point within the area and the mills are audible throughout at least the northern half.

There are short roads that extend into the area in several places along the western edge. These probably originated from mining claims and prospecting and are now used recreationally for woodgathering by people from the local area. On the east side, there is heavy use of the road to Goose Lake and vehicle impact in the Gold Hill vicinity immediately west of the lake.

The trail up Columbine Creek is very wide, well traveled, and almost gravelled in appearance. There are four foot bridges to cross the stream in the first one and one-half miles. The area has heavy recreational use. There are scattered cabins throughout the Columbine drainage. The corridor between Columbine-Hondo and Wheeler Peak Contiguous areas is made necessary by the utility line and right-of-way that joins the Red River and Rio Hondo areas.

032 Columbine - Hondo


logging corridor
roads
jeep trail (ruts)
grazing impacted
over grazed
private land
Red River
Goose Creek
Goose Lake
Questa
Lama
San Cristobal
Kiowa Village
032
Taos Ski Valley
Middle Fork
033
West Fork
033
032
Wheeler Wilderness

Carson N.F.

033 Wheeler Peak Contiguous

GILA NATIONAL FOREST

P3-169 Blue Range Primitive Contiguous

The Blue Range Primitive Area itself should be abolished. The matter is worsened by the recommended addition to it. We strongly object to loosing a potential annual yield of 1.6 million board feet in an area close to the small town of Reserve where timber is its primary source of subsistence.

P3-168, A3-162 Contiguous to Black and Aldo Wilderness

We oppose further expansion of the Black Primitive Area because it would further decrease the timber yield in an area that is already unable to adequately supply the timber industry established in the area. A potential annual yield of 3.1 million board feet is a tremendous loss when the local industry is struggling to remain in existence. We strongly oppose addition of this area to Wilderness and, in fact, favor returning the entire primitiv area to full multiple use.

RARE UNIT NO. 156

RARE UNIT NAME CONTIGUOUS TO GILA WILDERNESS & PRIMITIVE AREA

AREAS PREVIOUSLY LOGGED

SALE NAME	MAP CODE	TOTAL VOLUME (MMBF)	SALE DATE	AFFECTED ACRES	VOLUME REMOVED FROM AFFECTED AREA (MMBF)

FUTURE SALES

SALE NAME	MAP CODE	TOTAL VOLUME (MMBF)	AFFECTED ACRES	AFFECTED VOLUME (MMBF)	FISCAL YEAR
PROSPECTOR	9	Refer to area #155			
HORSE CAMP	10	Refer to area #155			
SAM	12	3.0	2,660	2.4	1980

POTENTIAL ANNUAL YIELD

REGULATED FOREST LAND

STANDARD + SPECIAL COMPONENT			MARGINAL COMPONENT			TOTAL		
AFFECTED ACRES	VOLUME (MMBF)	P.A.Y. (MMBF)	AFFECTED ACRES	VOLUME (MMBF)	P.A.Y. (MMBF)	AFFECTED ACRES	VOLUME (MMBF)	P.A.Y. (MMBF)
16,470	69.0	2.5	7,230	20.7	.8	23,700	89.7	3.3

PULPWOOD POTENTIAL AFFECTED

AFFECTED ACRES	VOLUME (CORDS)	AREA UNDER CONTRACT (C.P.P.S.)

CRITICAL MINERALS

RATING	POTENTIAL MINERAL
Important	Oil & Gas

DEVELOPMENTS

TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Roads	Active mining road, other roads
Stock Tanks	23 tanks
Fixed Sites	2 springs and 2 pipelines. lookout & helispots
Fences	Throughout
Mineral Developments	2 mines, at least 5 old mines
Vegetative Manipulation	Fuelwood cutting & thinning

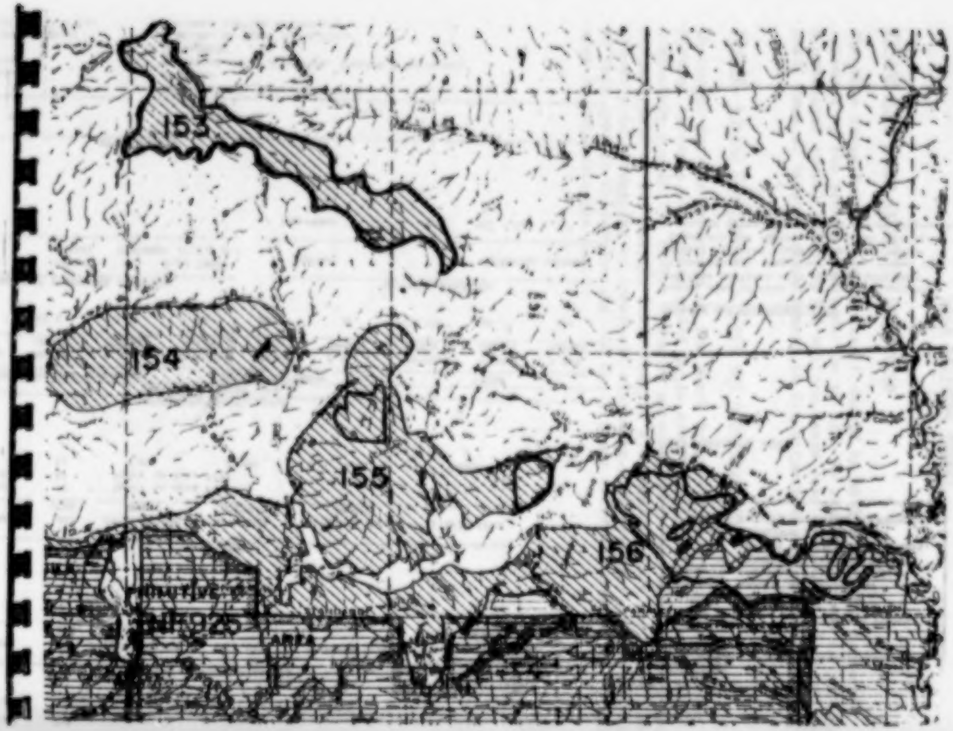
LEGEND:

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
156 RARE II UNIT NUMBER
RARE II UNIT BOUNDARY
PREVIOUSLY LOGGED AREAS
PERMANENT EXISTING ROADS
FUTURE TIMBER SALES 1977-1985
ACCESSIBLE TIMBER TYPE
FUTURE POTENTIAL PULPWOOD

☐ ROADLESS AREA

REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Reduce size of area so as to eliminate very serious conflict with future, long term timber supply, important future timber sale areas, existing roads, areas considered important for future oil and gas development and other improvements and developments.


153
154
155
156
925
AREA

Senator DOMENICI. I am sorry to make you wait so long, but somebody has to wait.

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR E. HIMEBAUGH, MANAGER, PHELPS DODGE CORP., TYRONE, N. MEX.

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. I am Art Himebaugh, manager of the Tyrone branch of Phelps Dodge Corp., Tyrone, N. Mex.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on S. 2583, the proposed New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980. We wish to commend Senators Domenici and Schmitt for their work with all public land users in the attempt to bring about rational legislation.

I will summarize our complete statement which I would appreciate being included in the record.

Senator DOMENICI. It will be admitted into the record.

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. Phelps Dodge is the second largest copper-producing company in the United States and the largest copper producer in New Mexico where we operate the Tyrone mine and concentration facilities and the Hidalgo smelter.

There are presently eight congressionally established wilderness areas in New Mexico containing almost 800,000 acres of land. The Bureau of Land Management is presently studying and managing as wilderness more than 1 million acres of land in the State. S. 2583 would create an additional 560,400 acres of wilderness. These established and potential areas of wilderness, plus approximately 3,350,000 acres of other Federal lands in which mining has been restricted or prohibited in New Mexico amount to almost 20 percent of the land area in the State.

In the spirit of cooperation that has provided the opportunity for this testimony, we believe that some modest refinenent in the proposed boundaries is necessary if we are to preserve, as much as possible, access to important mineralized areas in New Mexico.

In the mid-1950's Dr. Harrison Schmitt, Sr., developed a theory of copper mineral zones in which he connected the Santa Rita mine near Silver City, N. Mex., with the Morenci mine near Morenci, Ariz. He postulated that anywhere along one of these belts there was high potential for additional copper deposits.

Since that time, five copper deposits have been discovered along the Safford mineral belt. In addition, the Metcalf mine near Morenci, Ariz., and the Tyrone mine near Silver City, N. Mex., have commended large-scale copper production.

In 1975, Exxon Minerals Corp. discovered the Pinos Altos copper ore body north of Silver City. I have included in my statement, map 3, "Mobile Mineral Belt Influence on RARE II Wilderness Recommendations," which indicates the concentration of mines and exploration projects which now exist along the three northwest trending belts originally proposed by Dr. Schmitt.

The northernmost zone, known as the Blue Range-Santa Rita mineral belt contains the southern two-thirds of the proposed Blue Range Wilderness; the western, eastern, and southern proposed Gila Wilderness additions; and the lower one-fifth of the proposed Aldo Leopold Wilderness.

In addition, the proposed San Francisco Wilderness study area occurs wholly within the Blue Range-Santa Rita mineral belt.

Phelps Dodge is particularly interested in these areas located north of Silver City which we believe should be eliminated from the bill. These areas are:

First, the west and southwestern edges of the Gila Wilderness proposal that include:

.Phelps Dodge's Gila project and Lone Pine project, and the Mogollon area on the west and northwestern edges of the existing Gila Wilderness identified as "area C" on the map.

Second, an area that is located on the southeastern fringe of the existing Gila Wilderness identified as "area B" on the map.

Third, the Alum Mountain and Copperas Creek Area identified as "area A" on the map.

We are also quite concerned over two other areas: the Blue Range Wilderness proposal; and the San Francisco Wilderness proposal.

We would appreciate this map being made a part of the committee file.

The west and southwestern edge of the existing Gila Wilderness includes numerous mineralized structures. Figures 37 of the 1979 USGS mineral survey report shows the areas to have significant mineral resource potential and Phelps Dodge's exploration activities substantiate the USGS findings.

The southwestern proposed expansion bisected by the Gila River is one of the main targets for exploration of fluoriet and metallic mineral deposits. In 1978, Phelps Dodge conducted mineral reconnaissance in this area and we have conducted drilling in the last 2 years with approximately $200,000 being spent. The Phelps Dodge Gila prospect is less than 1 mile from the existing wilderness boundary and is partially within an area recommended for inclusion in the wilderness.

Results of drilling two test holes are being evaluated for the importance of molybdenum and fluorspar mineralization intercepted in the holes. Phelps Dodge will continue exploration of this prospect.

The Gila prospect is located within the Gila fluorspar district which is currently supporting small fluorspar production. Fluorspar mines have produced from this district since 1880 with major production occuring during World War I and World War II.

Approximately 85 percent of the U.S. consumption of fluorspar is imported with a major portion coming from South Africa. New deposits of fluorspar would be very critical to the United States if we are to remain reasonably independent of world economic problems and instabilities. Therefore, Phelps Dodge recommends that the area surrounding our Gila project be deleted from the legislation.

In 1978, Phelps Dodge located approximately 100 claims to investigate a significant potential for molybdenum, gold, and tellurium, similar to the Bambolla mine in Sonora, Mexico. Phelps Dodge will continue the exploration program on the Lone Pine prospect and anticipate drilling within the near future.

We recommend that the high mineral potential zones located along the west and southwestern fringes of the existing Gila Wilderness which contain our current Lone Pine prospect, be deleted from the bill.

In addition to our Lone Pine prospect, the Mogollon area on the northwest fringe of the Gila Wilderness has indications of significant potential for mineral deposits. The 1979 USGS Bulletin 1451 supports this statement. There are numerous small mines being operated in the area and mineral exploration is being conducted for gold, copper and molybdenum. Phelps Dodge strongly recommends the deletion of the area south of Mogollon.

According to the recently completed Geological Survey Bulletin 1451, area A contains altered and mineralized areas which represent important targets for metallic mineral exploration. Phelps Dodge has conducted cursory geologic reconnaissance in this area and has noted the existence of this mineral potential. We believe this area should be deleted from the Wilderness Proposal.

Area B in the proposed southeastern expansion of the Gila Wilderness also contains significant mineral potential. In 1972 Phelps Dodge conducted aeromagnetic surveys in this area and identified anomalous magnetic occurrences below the volcanic cover that is similar to other anomalies obtained over the known ore deposits of Santa Rita, Tyrone, Hanover and Pinos Altos. Phelps Dodge feels that this area contains significant potential and should be excluded from the legislation.

In 1974, Phelps Dodge conducted aeromagnetic surveys across the Blue Range primitive area in New Mexico and Arizona. Although Phelps Dodge is not able to report the exact findings, we can unequivocally state that numerous indications of mineral deposits occur beneath the Blue Range primitive area in New Mexico.

In the early 1970's, Phelps Dodge conducted a drilling program in the Arizona portion of the Blue Range primitive area. The intent of the exploration program was to drill through almost 2,000 feet of young volcanic rocks in hope of intersecting copper mineralization in older rocks beneath the volcanic cover similar to those found in the Morenci-Metcalf copper district.

Copper mineralization was intersected, substantiating the theory that copper deposits may exist below large younger volcanic flows. Unfortunately, the Blue Range drilling program was abandoned due to extensive administrative delays and significantly increased costs.

We strongly recommend that the Blue Range Wilderness Proposal be considered for deletion until further access and exploration can be conducted within this area.

The San Francisco River proposal which is currently considered for further study in the New Mexico RARE II legislation occurs completely within the Blue Range-Santa Rita mineral belt. Phelps Dodge's aeromagnetic survey, conducted in 1974, delineated strong potential for mineral deposits beneath this volcanic cover.

In addition, geothermal potential is considered strong within the area according to the Arizona Bureau of Geology and Mineral Technology—Geothermal Group, and the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources.

Ongoing studies, funded by the Department of Energy, indicate that there is a good potential for high temperature—meaning greater than 150 degrees centigrade—geothermal reservoirs in and near the San Francisco River corridor in New Mexico.

The potential for geothermal resource, either as a source of energy or high quality water, should outweigh the wilderness resources in the lower San Francisco River. Phelps Dodge recommends that the area be deleted from further study so that mineral and geothermal evaluation can be conducted in a prudent and timely fashion.

Phelps Dodge is pleased to note that release language, has been included in the legislation. Without this language, multiple uses and proper management of RARE II or further study areas will continue to be hampered by uncertainty and litigation.

We thank you for your attention and we will be happy to answer any questions.

Senator DOMENICI. I have no questions.

Senator SCHMITT. Art, for the committee's enlightenment, what is fluorspar utilized for?

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. In the making of steel. That is primary. And, of course, good chemical grade acid.

Senator SCHMITT. Hydrofluoric acid?

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. Yes.

Senator SCHMITT. Which is a high commercial demand, is it not?

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. Yes, it is. We have under consideration the possibility of disposing of some of our sulfuric acid in making hydrochloric acid.

Senator SCHMITT. Is the information that you have provided today—has it been generally available to the Forest Service and others in their decisionmaking process up until this point?

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. I am not aware that it has been, no.

Senator SCHMITT. So you are making available today new information which prior to this was proprietary in terms of your testimony?

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. Yes.

Senator SCHMITT. Does that indicate some concern of serious loss if these areas are included in wilderness? I guess it does, since you are here, but——

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. Yes.

Senator SCHMITT. I am a little bit surprised. The reason I am waltzing around this is that Phelps Dodge has a history of being secretive. I remember as a boy my dad swearing up and down and hitting the ceiling every time he tried to get information about the mineral belt out of Phelps Dodge.

I notice you are still being somewhat secretive about the Blue Ridge Wilderness primitive area, but I want to be sure that the record is clear that you are being more open now than is normal for Phelps Dodge to be.

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. I guess it has something to do maybe with being No. 2.

Senator SCHMITT. I don't know whether it does or not.

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. We have to try a little harder. But possibly that has been true of all the mineral industry. I don't think it is exclusive with Phelps Dodge, but certainly sharing exploration secrets hasn't been universal.

Senator SCHMITT. No. But it seems like it went beyond that. I don't know why my impression of Phelps Dodge as a boy would be so different than of other mining companies.

I am happy you have made the information available to us.

Mr. **Himebaugh**. The Forest Service, as far as I know, has never been requesting it. We would be glad to make any of this information available to you.

In fact, it is available here today.

Senator **Domenici**. You are stating that the Forest Service does or does not have this information?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. I guess that associated with the drilling program they have.

Senator **Domenici**. So they have part of what you have talked about?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. Yes.

Senator **Schmitt**. Is this drilling being undertaken utilizing helicopter access?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. Only the Blue Ridge primitive areas. That was required in and out. This drilling now in New Mexico is not.

Senator **Schmitt**. Do you feel that technology is generally advancing to where the disturbance at least in exploration activity is minimal for looking at these kinds of areas?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. Well, I would answer your question this way. I think it is going to be a necessity. As long as we are competing on the world market for anything, petroleum producing is an excellent example. If you can get it cheaper from Saudi Arabia, you are not going to develop it here.

The same way whether it is cobalt or chrome, whatever, our technology can develop it, but to look for it when it is not economical to mine, it makes these things deferred to when it is of necessity.

That is what will promote the exploration. Right now you could talk about cobalt in quantities that are not mineable, but it could be developed if there was a need for it. We haven't stimulated that. We are not going to go into those areas until such time as there is an absolute necessity for it, which will come as a result of shutoff of foreign import.

Senator **Schmitt**. Have there been any reserve estimates made or resource base estimates made of the fluorspar potential of this area and, if so, does it relate in any way percentage-wise to the imports that we are dependent on?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. I can't tell you how much is there. It has been mined.

Senator **Schmitt**. Do you know what the annual tonnage of fluorspar utilized in this country is?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. No.

Senator **Schmitt**. Could you supply that for the record?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. Yes.

Senator **Schmitt**. Do you have any estimates of the tonnage mined in this area, historical mining production?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. We might be able to get that. Much of that was done by individuals during World War II and it was a question of hand mining and sorting by hand.

Senator **Schmitt**. Characteristic of the fluorspar industry.

Mr. **Himebaugh**. Exactly.

Senator Schmitt. If you could provide that information with respect to fluorspar, and if you want to comment as to other minerals, don't hesitate.

Mr. Himebaugh. We will.

Senator Domenici. I think you misunderstood one of Senator Schmitt's questions. He asked whether the modern technologies are making it easier to explore without doing substantial damage to the area. I think you understood something else.

Would you answer that?

Mr. Himebaugh. Well, certainly the helicopter is a potential tool for not building roads. It is not a very practical way to go at exploration and it extends the time for it and it makes it less desirable. But there have been advancements in everything.

You never see anything but diamond drilling any more. The depth that you can drill is significant now, and a lot of that technology has come from the oil companies. They are drilling deeper, so we picked up that technology.

Senator Schmitt. But your education of favorable targets for drilling has been enhanced by aeromagnetic surveys, other remote sensing in the broadest sense of that word?

Mr. Himebaugh. They give you targets but we have to talk about what depth. Your target might be 2,000 or 3,000 feet under a cover and a small target. Now, those are long shots, and, well, as the geologist put it, you verify what you have got in your anomoly like the operation was a success, but the patient died.

Senator Schmitt. Thank you.

Senator Domenici. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Himebaugh and subsequent information follow:]

STATEMENT OF PHELPS DODGE CORPORATION

On S. 2583

Before The

Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation,
and Renewable Resources

Of The

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Washington, D.C.

May 29, 1980

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Arthur E. Himebaugh, Manager of the Tyrone Branch of Phelps Dodge Corporation at Tyrone, New Mexico. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on S. 2583, a bill authorizing approximately 560,000 acres of National Forest lands in New Mexico for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Senators Schmitt and Domenici are to be highly commended for their working with us and all public land users in an attempt to bring about rational legislation.

Phelps Dodge is the second largest copper producing company in the United States. We are also the largest copper producer in New Mexico where we operate the Tyrone mine and concentration facilities southwest of Silver City and the new Hidalgo smelter located approximately 40 miles south of Lordsburg. In 1979 Phelps Dodge and its subsidiary, Western Nuclear, Inc., paid $15.6 million to New Mexico in taxes and other payments from our operations in the state and employed 1,255 workers at Tyrone and Hidalgo. Phelps Dodge pays $36 million in the form of salaries and pension benefits to these employees. Also in 1979, Phelps Dodge purchased more than $71 million in goods and services from New Mexico firms.

Phelps Dodge is a significant part of the New Mexico mining industry which is the fourth largest contributor to the State's total personal income. The industry provides jobs for 27,000 people with an annual payroll of about $550 million, representing 6% of all non-agricultural employment. The value of New Mexico mineral production in 1978 was about four times greater than the value of either the agricultural or manufacturing sectors of the State's economy. Mineral production accounted for $3.1 billion, an increase of 6% over the 1977 level. New Mexico ranks third in U.S. production of copper behind Arizona (1) and Utah (2) and third in U.S. production of molybdenum behind Colorado (1) and Arizona (2).

Employment in the New Mexico mining industry is projected to nearly double by 1985 if federal and state laws and policies allow the continued development and expansion of coal and uranium mining.

With its large reserves of oil, gas, coal and uranium, New Mexico is becoming one of the nation's prime sources of energy. It is not only the largest producer of uranium in the nation, but also contains the largest known uranium reserves. In addition, it contains proven reserves of 535 million barrels of oil and 11.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

We believe, therefore, that Phelps Dodge is a significantly beneficial citizen whose presence in New Mexico exists because the State's mineral resources have been available for development. We also support the availability of recreational opportunities for our employees and other New Mexicans including the opportunity for them to experience back country primitive and non-confined types of recreation.

There are presently eight wilderness areas in New Mexico containing almost 800,000 acres of land designated by Congress. The Bureau of Land Management is presently studying and managing as wilderness, more than 1,000,000 acres of land in the state. S. 2583 would create an additional 560,400 acres of wilderness. These established and potential areas of wilderness, plus approximately 3,350,000 acres of other federal lands in which mining has been restricted or prohibited in New Mexico amount to more than 20% of the total federal domain in the State.

In the spirit of cooperation that has provided the opportunity for this testimony, we believe that some modest refinement in the proposed boundaries is necessary if we are to preserve, as much as possible, access to important mineralized areas in New Mexico. On January 17, 1980, Phelps Dodge developed a RARE II report for the New Mexico Congressional Delegation titled "RARE II Recommendations and Their Influence on the Economy of the United States and New Mexico." This report includes mineral and energy maps of New Mexico showing the influence of Forest Service RARE II recommendations on mineral and energy potential in New Mexico. Today, I will explain in more detail why Phelps Dodge believes it is critical to exclude some small mineralized areas from wilderness designation and suggest revised boundaries for your consideration.

In the mid-1950's Dr. Harrison Schmitt, Sr. developed a theory of mineral zones through New Mexico and into Arizona, wherein he postulated that the Santa Rita Mine near Silver City, New Mexico and the Morenci mine near Morenci, Arizona fell within a northwest trending mineral and structural belt. Anywhere along these zones there was high potential for additional copper deposits.

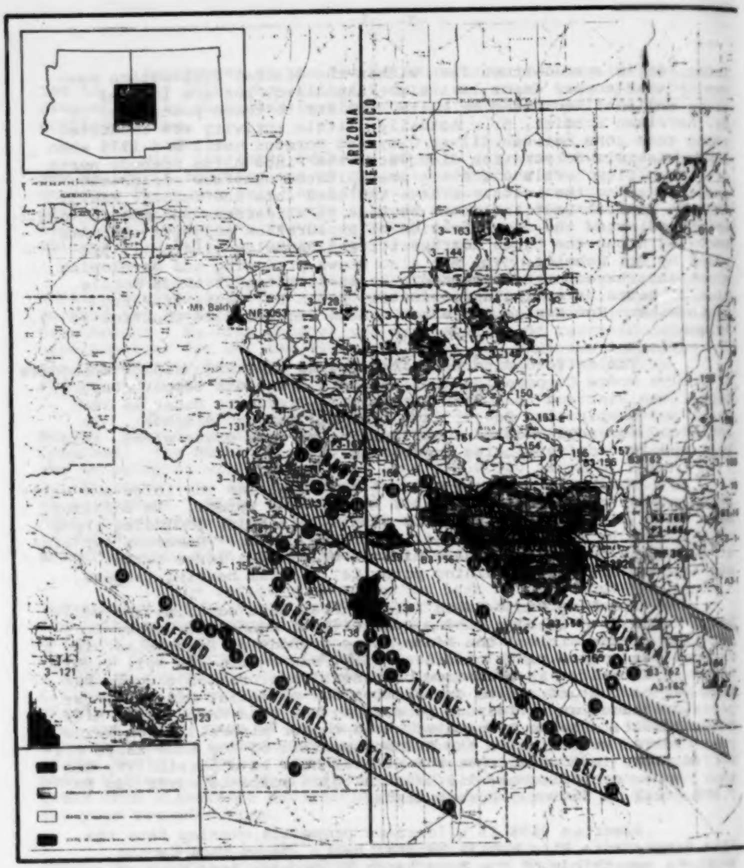
Today, it is a well-known fact within the mineral exploration community that copper deposits are not haphazard, but are located along well-defined zones or belts, similar to those postulated by Dr. Harrison Schmitt, Sr. Actually, little activity was conducted along this zone between Silver City and Morenci until mid-1975 when Exxon Minerals Corporation discovered the Pinos Altos orebody north of Silver City. This discovery precipitated numerous exploration projects along the belts. I have included into the record, Map 3, "Mobile Mineral Belt Influence on RARE II Wilderness Recommendations," which indicates the concentration of exploration projects that has occurred along the three northwest trending belts originally proposed by Dr. Schmitt. The map also shows producing and developing mines that have been discovered. At least three of these mobile mineral belts, trending approximately north 65° west, traverse southwestern New Mexico and enter Graham and Greenlee Counties in Arizona.

The Safford mineral belt contains the large copper orebodies of Phelps Dodge Corporation (Dos Pobres), Kennecott Copper Corporation (Lone Star and Lone Star Extension), Producers Minerals (San Juan) and Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company (Sanchez). In addition, numerous excellent exploration targets occur within this belt and are actively being prospected.

The Morenci-Tyrone mineral belt contains the large and well-known copper orebodies of Morenci, Metcalf and Tyrone. In addition, many small mineral deposits occur within this belt, including those of the Steeple Rock Mining District of New Mexico. Numerous exploration targets occur within this mineral belt and a large number of mining companies are examining potential mineral bearing targets.

The Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt contains the well-known Santa Rita orebody (Chino Open Pit) of Kennecott Copper Corporation. In addition, the Pinos Altos orebody of Exxon Minerals Corporation occurs north of Silver City, New Mexico and well within the mineral belt. An abundance of mineral exploration targets has been delineated and active exploration for potential mineral prospects continues at a vigorous pace along the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt. Phelps Dodge discovered copper mineralization below post-mineral volcanics in the Arizona portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area, indicating that the mineral belt is a possibility and that copper orebodies may lie beneath thick volcanic cover (up to 3,000 feet) on National Forest lands.

Numerous RARE II wilderness proposals overlap into the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mobile Mineral Belt. These include the southern two-thirds of the Blue Range Wilderness Area Proposal; the small areas titled Gila Wilderness Proposal that surround the the existing Gila Wilderness east of the town of Mogollon, New Mexico and wrapping around the southwestern edge the Gila Wilderness; the lower one-third of the Gila Wilderness Additions Proposal just east of the existing Gila Wilderness; and, the lower


ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
Mt Baldy
SAFFORD MINERAL BELT
MORENCI
TYRONE MINERAL BELT
MINERAL BELT

MAP 3

MOBILE MINERAL BELT INFLUENCE ON RARE II WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS one-fifth of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Area Proposal. In addition, the San Francisco Wilderness Area Proposal is designated as a Further Study Area in the New Mexico RARE II legislation and occurs wholly within the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt.

Much of the Gila Wilderness expansion and the Blue Range Wilderness Proposal is covered by volcanic rocks that are younger than rocks commonly associated with copper or molybdenum deposits. This volcanic cover has limited positive identification of mineral occurrences by U.S.G.S. mineral surveys. However, geophysical techniques allow the professional explorationist to look beneath the post-mineral volcanic cover and may provide the opportunity to discover mineral deposits beneath this cover. Phelps Dodge utilized aeromagnetic surveys in conjunction with structural features in the volcanic cover to propose a drilling program within the Blue Range Primitive Area in Arizona. The exploration program was conducted between 1969 and 1974.

The intent of the Blue Range Primitive exploration program was to drill through almost 2,000 feet of young volcanic rocks in hope of intersecting copper mineralization in older rocks similar to those found in the Morenci-Metcalf Copper District, 25 miles to the south. Although copper mineralization was found, the Blue Range Primitive Area program was abandoned following the second drill hole due to extensive administrative delays and increased cost. The cost of drilling the two holes on the final portion of the program soared from an estimated $16.50 per foot to approximately $43.00 per foot.

Phelps Dodge has developed a general map (Map I) of the western portion of New Mexico and the eastern portion of Arizona that shows the proposed RARE II areas of S. 2583. We will introduce this map into the record for your use. There are five areas of particular interest which we believe should be eliminated from the wilderness bill. These areas are:

1. The Alum Mountain and Copperas Creek area identified as "Area A" on Map I (Tracts 1 and 3 on Figure 37);
2. An area that is located on the southeastern fringe existing Gila Wilderness identified as "Area B" on Map I (Tract 2 on Figure 37);
3. The west and southwestern edges of the Gila Wilderness Proposal that include:
   a. A gold-tellurium prospect on the southwestern edge of the Gila Wilderness expansion (Lone Pine Project);
   b. A fluorite prospect of the southern expansion of the existing Gila Wilderness (Gila Project);

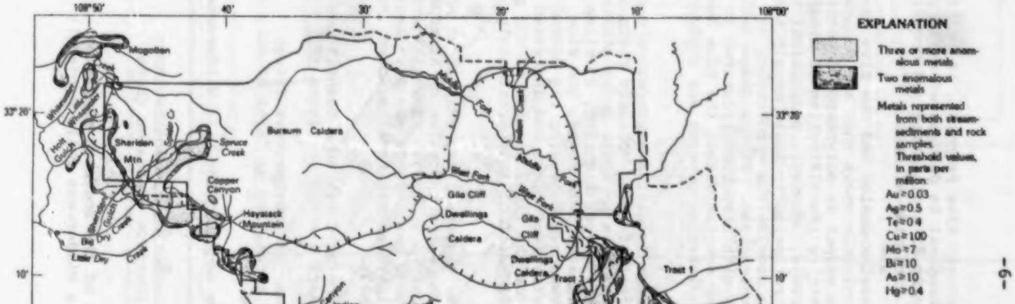

108°50'
40'
30'
20'
10'
108°00'
33°20'
10'
33°00'
Mogollon
Whitewater
Little Whitewater
Holt Gulch
Sheridan Mtn
Spruce Creek
Copper Canyon
Haystack Mountain
Sheridan Gulch
Big Dry Creek
Little Dry Creek
Bursum Caldera
West Fork
Middle Fork
Gila Cliff
Dwellings
Caldera
Gila Cliff Dwellings Caldera
Tract 1
Tract 2
Tract 3
Apache Cr.
Alum Mtn
Spring Canyon
Copperas Creek
Sapillo Creek
Indian Canyon
(Adams Gulch)
Turkey Creek
Gila River
Gila Fluorspar district
0 5 10 15 20 KILOMETERS
0 5 10 MILES
EXPLANATION
Three or more anomalous metals
Two anomalous metals
Metals represented from both stream-sediments and rock samples. Threshold values, in parts per million.
Au≥0.03
Ag≥0.5
Te≥0.4
Cu≥100
Mo≥7
Bi≥10
As≥10
Hg≥0.4

FIGURE 37 - Area of greatest mineral resource potential in the Gila study area determined on the basis of selected metal anomalies. (Taken from U.S.G.S. Bull. 1451)

c. The Mogollon Area on the west and northwestern edges of the existing Gila Wilderness identified as "Area C" on Map I;

4. The Blue Range Wilderness Proposal;

5. San Francisco Wilderness Proposal (Further Study Area).

The U.S. Geological Survey recently completed its mineral evaluation of the Gila Primitive Area and the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico and reported their findings in Geological Survey Bulletin 1451. According to their conclusions, the southwestern portion of the Gila Wilderness Additions Proposal in S. 2583, have significant minerals resource potential for base and precious metals and for fluorspar. They recognized two ages of mineralization within the study area. The first age of mineralization occurs within weakly mineralized rocks at Alum Mountain, along Copperas Creek, and in Brock and Brushy Canyons in the southeastern part of the study area. A younger age of mineralization is represented by gold, silver and copper deposits of the Mogollon District. Gold, silver, tellurium, copper, lead, zinc and fluorspar minerals occur within the study area all along the southwest flank of the Mogollon Mountains from the Mogollon District to the Gila River and may be part of this mineralization.

The U.S.G.S. also indicated that the main areas of mineral potential, evident in surface rocks, occur along the fringes of the wilderness and primitive area (the southwestern portion of the Gila Wilderness Additions Proposal in S. 2583). Phelps Dodge's exploration activities in this area and in the Blue Range Primitive Area substantiate the U.S.G.S. conclusions. In addition, significant mineral potential may exist below the volcanic cover within the proposed Gila Wilderness Additions.

The discovery of minerals below thick volcanic piles does not immediately indicate that these mineral deposits would be uneconomic. Current economic depths for mining are variable according to grade, tonnage and the type of minerals extracted. The copper orebody of Phelps Dodge located north of Safford, Arizona is currently in the development stage and will be mined from the 2,500 foot depth. The Copper Queen orebody of Phelps Dodge located in Bisbee, Arizona was closed in 1975 after 95 years of production. It was mined to a depth of approximately 3,300 feet. In addition, Phelps Dodge's recent molybdenum discovery in southern Utah has indicated significant ore bearing mineralization at depths in excess of 5,000 feet. This discovery, the Pine Grove Deposit, and is currently a joint venture between Phelps Dodge Corporation and Getty Oil Company. The Kalamazoo orebody of Newmont, located at San Manuel, Arizona is currently under development to at least a depth of 5,000 feet and Newmont's Superior Mine at Superior, Arizona currently produces ore from the 4,700 foot depth. Therefore, current economics and exploration techniques will allow the minerals industry to explore and potentially mine deposits that are discovered to a depth of 5,000 feet.

I have also included for your reference, Figure 37 of the U.S.G.S. Mineral Survey titled, "Gila Primitive Area and Gila Wilderness New Mexico" from Geological Survey Bulletin 1451. This figure indicates areas of greatest mineral resource potential in the Gila Study Area determined on the basis of selected mineral metal anomalies. With the combined evidence of geological, geochemical and geophysical investigations, the U.S.G.S. has identified potentially economic areas for minerals within the existing Gila Wilderness and the proposed wilderness additions.

AREA A

Tracts 1 and 3 (shown on figure 37) include parts of the Alum Mountain and Copperas Creek, altered and mineralized inliers which represent important targets for metallic mineral exploration. Phelps Dodge has not as yet conducted sufficient exploration within Tracts 1 and 3 to document the existence of significant mineral potential in those areas. However, the U.S.G.S. indicates strong potential in both Tracts 1 and 3 and consideration should be given to deleting these areas from the wilderness proposal.

AREA B

In Tract 2 (figure 37) significant mineral potential occurs along Spring Canyon and Sapillo Creek. In 1972 Phelps Dodge conducted aeromagnetic surveys within Tract 2 and identified anomalous magnetic occurrences below volcanic cover. These "signatures" were very similar to other "signatures" that were obtained by conducting a similar aeromagnetic survey over the producing ore deposits of Santa Rita, Tyrone and Hanover. The "signature" is also similar to that identified in the Pinos Altos area. Five years after the Phelps Dodge aeromagnetic survey, Exxon Minerals Corporation discovered the Pinos Altos orebody, which is currently undergoing mine development. Phelps Dodge feels that Area B contains significant potential along Sapillo Creek and Cow Creek and should be excluded from the New Mexico RARE II legislation.

West and Southwestern Additions to Gila Wilderness

The west and southwestern edge of the existing Gila Wilderness includes numerous mineralized structures (see Figure 37). This area is part of one of the more heavily mineralized areas in the zone of mineralization that extends along the range front from the Mogollon District to the Gila River. Significant amounts of gold, silver, tellurium, copper, lead, zinc and fluorspar minerals are present in surface outcroppings. Phelps Dodge's Lone Pine Prospect is located within this zone (Refer to Map I).

Lone Pine Prospect

The Lone Pine Prospect is located approximately 13 miles east - southeast of Glenwood and approximately 40 miles northwest of Silver City. As a result of the U.S.G.S. report on mineral potential in the Gila Wilderness, Phelps Dodge exploration geologists conducted detailed surface reconnaissance of the areas where high molybdenum values were reported. In 1978 we staked approximately 100 claims to investigate what we felt was a molybdenum porphyry system. Since that time we have conducted additional sampling chemical analyses, geologic mapping and petrographic studies. There is a significant potential for a gold-tellurium deposit in our prospect area, similar to the Bambolla Mine in Sonora, Mexico. Phelps Dodge will continue the exploration program in this area to delineate the importance of this mineral prospect.

Tellurium is used in the manufacture of rubber products, mainly cable coverings. It is utilized to increase tensile strength and resistance to heat. In addition, it is used in the manufacturing of lead products and lead alloys providing resistance to acids. Tellurium also improves the machining qualities of steel and is an effective hardening agent. Phelps Dodge recommends that consideration be given to deleting the high mineral potential zones located along the western and southwestern fringe of the existing Gila Wilderness that contains our current Lone Pine prospect, as depicted in Figure 37 of the U.S.G.S. Mineral Survey Bulletin 1451.

Gila Prospect

The area located along Watson Canyon and bisected by the Gila River shows significant mineral potential as delineated in Figure 37 of the U.S.G.S. Bulletin 1451. The area is adjacent to the Gila Fluorspar District, which is one of the main targets for exploration of flourite and metallic mineral deposits. The U.S.G.S. indicates that this area is outside the area of altered and mineralized rocks of the flourspar district, but strong calcite veins as much as several feet wide were observed along faults within the primitive area and wilderness west of Turkey Creek and north of Watson Canyon (Adams Gulch) and Indian Canyon, and mineralized rocks of the fluorspar district could extend beneath adjacent parts of the primitive area. In 1978, Phelps Dodge conducted mineral reconnaissance in this area and identified what appeared to be a molybdenum prophyry system. Claims were subsequently staked and a drilling program has been conducted for the past two years. The Phelps Dodge prospect, known as the Gila Project, is less than one mile from the existing wilderness boundary and is located within areas recommended for inclusion in the New Mexico RARE II legislation. The Gila Project is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Silver City and approximately 9 miles northeast of Cliff, New Mexico. In 1978, surface sampling identified mineral assemblages indicative of a molybdenum prophyry system. Results of drilling two test holes are being evaluated for the importance of the Molybdenum intercepted in the holes. These holes also intercepted fluorspar mineralization.

In 1979 the U.S. consumption of 1.22 million short tons of fluorspar was an increase of 14% over 1978. Approximately 85% of the fluorspar is imported into the United States with a major portion coming from South Africa. The remaining 15% of the fluorspar utilized in the U.S. is derived from the Illinois-Kentucky-Tennessee area. In late 1979 a shortage began to develop in the world fluorspar supplies. This was due in part to the reduced shipments from Mexican sources, shut down of Spanish operations, shut down of a major low-grade South African mine, slow down of shipments from Thailand (due to political instability), temporary shutdown in Kenya, and decrease in Allied Chemical's production due to a mine closure in Illinois. Therefore, new deposits of fluorspar would be critical to the United States if we are to remain reasonably independent of world economic problems and instabilities. Phelps Dodge recommends that the area surrounding our Gila Project be considered for deletion from the New Mexico RARE II legislation. Other lands surrounding our deposit and the Gila Fluorspar District are likely to contain producible fluorspar. Interference with and possible prohibition of mining and related activities because of requirements for the prevention of significant deterioration and maintenance of visibility near Class I areas, may result in a significant adverse impact on development of additional fluorspar reserves in the United States.

The Mogollon Area

In addition to our Lone Pine prospect, the Mogollon Area has indications of significant potential for mineral deposits along the western and northwestern fringes of the existing Gila Wilderness. Once again, Figure 37 of U.S.G.S. Bulletin 1451 shows significant mineral resource potential within the area. Currently there are numerous small mines being operated in the area and mineral exploration is being conducted for gold, copper and molybdenum. Phelps Dodge strongly recommends the deletion of the Gila Wilderness Additions Proposal in the area south of Mogollon.

Blue Range Wilderness Proposal

In 1974, Phelps Dodge conducted aeromagnetic surveys across the Blue Range Primitive Area in New Mexico and Arizona. This was a follow-up program of the aeromagnetic survey conducted in the Santa Rita-Tyrone area previously discussed. Although Phelps Dodge is not able to report the exact findings, we can unequivocally state that numerous anomalies (an indication of a mineral deposit) occur beneath the Blue Range Primitive Area, including the area proposed in the New Mexico RARE II legislation and identified as Blue Range Wilderness Proposal. The conclusion of Phelps Dodge's Blue Range Drilling Program, was that mineral potential exists below post-mineral volcanics. We recommend strongly that the Blue Range Wilderness Proposal be considered for deletion until further access and exploration can be conducted within this area. If a consensus for deletion cannot be secured, we would propose as an alternative, that the southern half of the New Mexico Blue Range Proposal be deleted, since it has the greatest potential for mineralization. The area south of Bear Canyon, located approximately midway between the north and south boundaries of the proposal could be utilized as the deletion boundary.

For your use we have placed into the record a brief presentation developed on the Blue Range Wilderness Additions in Arizona and New Mexico wherein we discuss the structural and mineral potential for deeply buried copper and molybdenum deposits, base and precious metal occurrences, ranching and timber activities, and the geothermal potential. We urge your thoughtful consideration of this report.

Once again we would like to draw attention to the mineral zones of Dr. Harrison Schmitt, Sr. wherein the Blue Range-Santa Rita mineral belt contains the well-known Santa Rita orebody of Kennecott Copper Corporation and the newly discovered Pinos Altos copper orebody. Those discoveries came about by utilization of the mobile belt theory which has since enabled Exxon Minerals and other mineral exploration companies to increase their exploration efforts along the belt into Greenlee County, Arizona and the Blue Range Primitive Area.

San Francisco Wilderness Proposal

The San Francisco River proposal which is currently considered for Further Study in the New Mexico RARE II legislation occurs completely within the Blue Range-Santa Rita mineral belt. The area consists primarily of volcanic rocks which are younger than those of known copper deposits at Morenci approximately 25 miles to the southwest. Phelps Dodge's aeromagnetic survey, conducted in 1974, delineated strong potential for mineral deposits beneath this type of volcanic cover. In addition, geothermal potential is considered strong within the area according to the Arizona Bureau of Geology and Mineral Technology - Geothermal Group, and the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources. Several hot springs and Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRA's) are localized along this section of the San Francisco River. Along with presently active indications of geothermal resources, deposits of travertine occur along the Blue Fault Zone indicating a long history of hot spring and hydrothermal activity. Hot spring activity at the eastern edge of the corridor may be localized by ring structures on the outskirts of the Mogollon Caldera. Similar controls for potential geothermal resources have been proposed elsewhere. Ongoing studies, funded by the Department of Energy, indicate that there is a very good potential for high temperature (greater than 150° centigrade) geothermal reservoirs in and near the corridor. The potential for geothermal resources, either as a source of energy or high quality water, should outweigh the wilderness resources in the lower Frisco River. Until the area is fully evaluated for its geothermal and mineral potential, Phelps Dodge recommends that the area be deleted from wilderness or further study consideration so that mineral evaluation can be conducted in a prudent and timely fashion.

We have introduced into the record a report on the Lower Frisco Wilderness that was prepared in January, 1980. We ask that you consider its content.

Phelps Dodge realizes that there may be conflicts with a designation of additional wilderness in those areas previously identified to have high mineral potential. This is not only in areas where Phelps Dodge currently has claims, but in other locations likely to contain producible fluorite, gold, copper, molybdenum and tellurium. The possible prohibition of mining and related activities by requirements of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations and the maintenance of visibility and intregal vistas, may have a significant impact on mineral exploration and development. It is generally recognized that public lands should not be withdrawn from mineral development without appropriate information to compare potential mineral values with the benefits of the withdrawal. We believe it would be an greater transgression to withdraw these lands under wilderness designation when the mineral potential is documented or is known to be great based on a consensus of exploration techniques.

In summary, Phelps Dodge recommends that those areas of greatest mineral resource potential determined on the basis of selected metal anomalies, as shown in Figure 37 of the Geological Survey Bulletin 1451, and as substantiated by Phelps Dodge exploration activities as discussed herein, be deleted from New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980. In addition, we recommend that the Blue Range Wilderness Proposal and the San Francisco Wilderness Proposal be deleted from consideration as wilderness or further study designation.

Phelps Dodge is pleased to note that the New Mexico delegation has included release language in the New Mexico RARE II legislation. Release will guarantee continued multiple use at the same level as before the Forest Service created the RARE II program. Without this language, multiple uses and management of RARE II wilderness or further planning areas will continue to be hampered by uncertainty and litigation.

Phelps Dodge requests favorable consideration be given to extending the mining and mineral leasing laws for a period of 20 years beyond the December 31, 1983 deadline. This should be reflected in the New Mexico RARE II legislation. The Wilderness Act of 1964 provided that designated wilderness areas were to remain open to exploration and development for 20 years after the enactment. It was the assumption of Congress when they established the 1983 expiration date that this would allow mining companies the necessary time in which to investigate the public lands that are going to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. It was anticipated at that time approximately six to nine million acres eventually would be placed in the Wilderness System. However, in the ensuing period the RARE I and RARE II Programs and the BLM Wilderness Program made major additions to the anticipated wilderness so that now there are close to five hundred million acres under review. Therefore, we suggest that mining and mineral leasing laws be applicable for a period of 20 years beyond the December 31, 1983 deadline for those areas added to the National Wilderness Preservation System under the New Mexico RARE II legislation. During that time, existing mining uses and mineral leasing should continue. In addition, mineral development, access, exchange of lands, and ingress and egress for mining claimants must be guaranteed and granted on a timely basis.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the subject vital to the mineral industry of New Mexico and Phelps Dodge Corporation. Our national policy of minerals self-sufficiency has been affirmed by the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970. If this policy is to be effective, it is imperative that highly mineralized public lands in New Mexico be left open to exploration and development.

APPENDIX

Producing and developing properties and exploration prospects as identified on Map 3.

Mobile Mineral Belt Influence on RARE II Wilderness Recommendations
(Updated to January 1, 1979)

Producing and Developing Properties

A. Dos Pobres Copper Orebody owned by Phelps Dodge Corporation, currently in the development stage.

B. San Juan Copper Orebody owned by Producers Minerals, currently in production.

C. Lone Star (Safford) Copper Orebody and the Lone Star Extension Copper Orebody owned by Kennecott Copper Corporation, currently in the development stage.

D. Sanchez Copper Orebody owned by Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company, currently in production and development stages.

E. Morenci Open Pit Copper Orebody owned by Phelps Dodge Corporation, producing since 1882, includes over 100 small past producing mines, cumulative production estimated at 3 billion dollars (reference 1). Third largest open pit mine in the world.

F. Metcalf Mines (Metcalf Ridge Open Pit Copper Orebody and King Ridge Open Pit Copper Orebody) owned by Phelps Dodge Corporation, producing as open pits since 1972, includes over 50 small past producing mines, cumulative production estimated as above to be over 3 billion dollars (reference 1).

G. Laura Mine, Summit Mine, and Bank Mine of the Steeple Rock District. Gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc deposits. Intermittently worked, considered excellent exploration prospects.

H. Carlisle Mine and Ontario Mine of the Steeple Rock District. Gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc deposits. Presently producing, owned by Billingsley.

I. East Camp Mine, Davenport Mine, Golden Nugget Mine, and Golden Rod Mine of the Steeple Rock District. Gold, silver, copper, Lead, zinc deposits. Intermittently worked, East Camp Mine presently in limited production. All considered excellent exploration prospects.

J. Alabama Mine, Mount Royal Mine, and Jim Crow Mine of the Steeple Rock District. Gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc deposits. Intermittently worked, considered excellent exploration prospects. The 12 mines of the Steeple Rock Mining District (G through J) produced over 10 million dollars of cumulative production (reference 1).

K. Tyrone Open Pit Copper Orebody owned by Phelps Dodge Corporation, currently in production. Includes over 30 small past producing mines, cumulative production estimated at 80 to 100 million dollars (reference 1).

L. Pinos Altos Copper Orebody owned by Exxon Minerals Corporation, currently in development stage. Past production includes over 30 small mines and over 70 million dollars of cumulative production.

M. Bayard Mines, owner unknown, includes 10 past producing mines. Presently in production. Silver, zinc, lead, copper, iron. Cumulative production is estimated at 10 million dollars (reference 1, et al).

N. Continental Orebody, owned by UV Industries, includes 10 past producing mines. Presently in production. Zinc, iron, lead, copper, silver, gold. Cumulative production is estimated at 40 million dollars.

O. Santa Rita (Chino) Open Pit Copper Orebody owned by Kennecott Copper Corporation, includes over 40 small past producing mines, currently in production, cumulative production estimated at 1 to 2 billion dollars (reference 1).

P. Willis Silica Quarry, owned by O. B. Willis. Currently in production, extracts high grade silica flux for the copper smelter at the Phelps Dodge Corporation, Morenci Branch. In steady production since 1957.

Q. Silver-Gold leaching operation, currently in production. Commenced operations in late-1978. Small mining company.

Mobile Mineral Belt Influence on RARE II Wilderness Recommendations
(Updated to January 1, 1979, plus new prospects)

Exploration Prospects

1. Boggs Ranch: Currently an exploration target of Superior Oil Company-Minerals Division and Brigham Young University Development. Potential is considered strong and numerous drill holes will be completed on this target in search for a copper orebody similar to the presently known orebodies of the Safford Mineral Belt.

2. Oliver Mine: Manganese, in Carboniferous limestone (reference 2).

3. Black Rock (Black Magic) Mine: Manganese, in Ordovician Longfellow-limestone (reference 2).

4. Twin Peaks Mine: owned by Frazer-Martin Mines, Ltd. and currently under option by Superior Oil Company-Minerals Division. Cumulative past production estimated at 2 million dollars. Considered a primary copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc, flourspar exploration target within the Morenci-Tyrone Mineral Belt.

5. Twin Peaks South: Staked by Superior Oil Company-Minerals Division and currently being explored. Contains the past producing Norman King Mine which yielded rich amounts of silver, lead, zinc, and copper. Considered an excellent exploration target in the Morenci-Tyrone Mineral Belt.

6. Blue Range-Strayhorse Exploration Target: Exploration program carried out by Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1972 through 1974. Excellent drilling target, copper discovered during drilling. Forest Service delays and interventions caused termination of project. Proved that there is copper potential in the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt (reference 3).

7. Blue Range-Toronado Exploration Target: Exploration program carried out by Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1969 and 1970. Data derived from the drilling program stepped up exploration in the Blue Range Primitive Area. Forest Service mandatory delays caused eventual termination of project. Indicated excellent copper mineral potential in the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt (reference 3).

8. Superior Oil Company-Minerals Division Exploration Target in 1978: Presently exploring the area. Shows the potential for mineral exploration in the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt. The target could have encouraging results.

9. Blue Range-Hobo Exploration Target: Exploration program carried out by Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1969. Data derived from the drilling program stepped up exploration in the Blue Range Primitive Area. No Forest Service forced delays. Indicated excellent copper mineral potential in the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt (reference 3).

10. Conoco Minerals Company Exploration Target in 1977 and 1978: Presently exploring the area. Shows the potential for mineral exploration in the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt.

11. AMAX Minerals Company Exploration Target in 1975 and 1976: Indicates the potential for mineral exploration in the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt.

12. Ed Stacy Claims: Have been optioned by numerous large exploration corporations including Conoco, AMAX, and Superior Oil Company. Chevron has also shown an interest. Indicates that potential for mineral exploration in the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt remains high.

13. Gloria Claims staked by Travis L. Gant and Associates in the Maple Peak Area during August, 1978: Currently planning exploration of the Blue Range. Indicates that mineral exploration companies feel that the potential for mineral exploration and discovery remains high in the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt.

14. Mogollon Mines: Currently being investigated by numerous exploration companies. Minerals mined include copper, gold, silver, lead, flourspar, and uranium. Cumulative production estimated at 30 to 40 million dollars (reference 1). Current exploration centers on copper and molybdenum. This area exists at the fringe of the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt and may actually expand this mineral belt if exploration is allowed to proceed into the surrounding areas.

15. TE Claims staked by Phelps Dodge Corporation in mid-1978: Shows the continued exploration interest in areas along the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt. Exploration is currently underway.

16. Exxon Minerals Company is currently conducting active exploration mineral reconnaissance in the Cliff, New Mexico area for copper and molybdenum. Their exploration approach and theories are based on the completed evaluation of their Pinos Altos Copper Orebody discovery in 1977 and on the projection of the mineral trend from the Santa Rita and Pinos Altos area toward and into the Blue Range (Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt). They are also actively evaluating the Blue Range at present, although no claims have been staked to date.

17. Day Mine Prospect being conducted by Towne Mines, Inc.: Included claim staking and exploration drilling in 1974. This indicates the potential for mineral exploration in the Safford Mineral Belt.

18. Markum Wash Project carried out by Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1975: Including claim staking, geologic mapping, exploration drilling, and geophysical surveys. The prospect indicates the continued exploration for mineral deposits in the Safford Mineral Belt.

19. SOL Prospect Exploration Target: A joint venture mineral exploration program carried out by AMAX, Inc., and Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1972 through 1974. In 1975 AMAX continued the exploration program by joint venturing the target with Quintana Minerals. The claims are currently controlled by AMAX, Inc. This prospect indicates the continued search for mineral deposits above the Safford Mineral Belt.

20. Slick Rock Exploration Target staked by Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1974: Exploration drilling, geologic mapping, and geophysics conducted on the prospect. Indicates the continued exploration for mineral deposits along the Safford Mineral Belt.

21. George Stacy Claims: Optioned and exploratory drilled for mineral potential in 1969 by National Lead Corporation with favorable results. Indicates the continued exploration for mineral deposits along the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt.

22. Humble Oil-Minerals Division Exploration Target in 1967: Conducted exploration drilling, geologic mapping, geochemistry, and geophysics of the prospect. Shows the potential for mineral exploration at the southern fringe of the Blue Range-Santa Rita Mineral Belt and may actually expand this mineral belt if exploration is allowed to proceed into the surrounding areas.

23. ASARCO, Inc. Exploration Target in mid-1950's: Lead, zinc, flourspar, molybdenum prospect. Drilling exploration program conducted. Numerous old mine workings also present. Past production evident.

24. Phelps Dodge Corporation Gila Claims: Exploration currently in progress with drilling program conducted in November, 1979. Molybdenum-flourspar prospect. Additional exploration work planned. Mineralization projected on surface into the Gila Wilderness.

25. Black Hawk District: Numerous silver-cobalt prospects, previous production. Current active development work by a small Canadian (?) firm.

26. **Cobalt-molybdenum mineralization:** Exploration drilling conducted on this prospect in 1971-72 by Cities Service.

27. **Porphyry copper-molybdenum mineralization:** Drilled in 1972-73 by Exxon Minerals.

28. **Porphyry copper-molybdenum prospect:** Drilled by Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1972-73.

29. **White Signal Uranium prospect:** Past production by small mining companies during the 1950's.

30. **Kennecott Copper Company prospect:** Copper tactites drilled in the 1950's.

31. **The Virginia and Pyramid Mines:** Copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc. Phelps Dodge Corporation and AMAX, Inc. have conducted exploration drilling projects at this location.

32. **Molybdenum prospect:** Drilled by AMAX, Inc. in 1979. Additional exploration drilling planned in 1980.

33. **Alma prospect:** Silver-gold mineralization, mined in the 1880's. Numerous exploration companies currently conducting reconnaissance in the area.

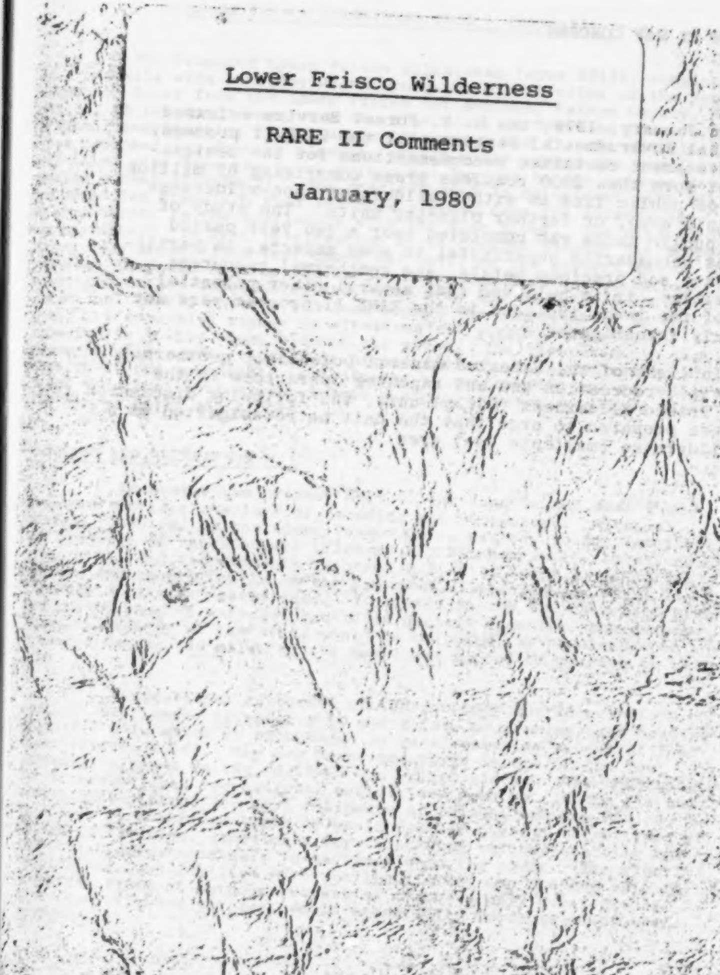
34. **White Water Draw prospect:** Silver mineralization, mined in the 1880's. Exploration companies currently conducting reconnaissance in the area. Mineralization and host rock similar to Mogollon District to north.

35. **Lone Pine prospect:** Gold-tellurium mineralization, mined in 1913. Phelps Dodge Corporation is currently conducting exploration drilling in the area. Mineralization-alteration continues into the Gila Wilderness.

36. **Black Cat prospect:** Manganese mineralization. North-South veins in volcanic rocks.

37. **Humble Oil Uranium Prospect:** Drilled in 1972-73.

38. San Simon Creek zeolites.



Lower Frisco Wilderness

RARE II Comments

January, 1980

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In January, 1979, the U. S. Forest Service released its Final Environmental Statement of the RARE II process. This statement contained recommendations for the designation of more than 2900 roadless areas comprising 62 million acres of public land as either wilderness, non-wilderness (multiple use), or further planning units. The study of these public lands was completed over a two year period and was necessarily superficial in some aspects, in particular base and precious metals, and geothermal resources. In addition, it is believed that several other potential uses of the lands included in the RARE II program were not properly investigated.

In light of the untested mineral potential, geothermal potential, recreation use and ranching operations in the Lower Frisco Wilderness (03139) unit, the following discussion has been prepared to urge that the unit be redesignated as a non-wilderness (multiple use) area.

LOWER FRISCO WILDERNESS UNIT - (RARE II)

The proposed Lower Frisco Wilderness (Area 03139) consists of a one mile wide corridor along approximately 25 miles of the San Francisco River from the Lower Frisco Hot Springs, Catron County, New Mexico, to the confluence with the Blue River in Greenlee County, Arizona, encompassing 14,200 acres (Figures 1 and 2). An additional area proposed for further planning status would expand the corridor to 3-5 miles wide from the Lower Frisco Hot Springs to the Arizona-New Mexico border (Figure 2). The roadless area is coincident with the proposed San Francisco Wild and Scenic River from the Arizona-New Mexico border to the confluence with the Blue River. The river drops approximately 700 feet in elevation as it courses through the proposed area, from about 4,550 feet above sea level on the eastern end of the corridor to 3,850 feet on the west. Elevation differences between the river bottom and adjacent ridges range from 800 to 1,800 feet, with occasional cliffs up to 1,000 feet high. The canyon walls to the north are generally higher in elevation and steeper than their couterparts on the south side of the river. The vegetation in the proposed wilderness, typical of higher elevations in the semi-arid deserts of the southwest, is dominated by cottonwoods and seepwillows along the river bottom with sparse juniper - pinyon woodlands along the canyon walls and ridges.

RANCHING AND RECREATION

Presently the primary uses of the land in and near the proposed corridor consists of ranching and recreation. Although grazing potential in the Lower Frisco Unit, per se, is not important, the presence of ranch houses (Figures P 3 through P 11), access roads (Figure 2), and improvements (Figures P 2, P 3, and P 4) along the western and central parts of the proposed wilderness are vital to ranchers utilizing nearby land. If access to the San Francisco River for the purpose of watering cattle is denied, ranching, the second largest industry of the area, would be crippled, as happened when Aravaipa Canyon (60 miles to the west) was closed to grazing by the BLM.

Recreational resources of the proposed corridor include hunting and fishing (Figures P 15 and P 16), picnicking, and camping (Figure P 17), which is encouraged by easy vehicular access of the river (Figure P 18). The San Francisco River is one of the few perennial streams in the southwestern United States. The opportunity for stream-related recreational activities, such as fishing, is thus almost non-existent for most residents of Arizona and New Mexico. Exclusion of motorized vehicles would further curtail these types of outdoor activities, especially for those with neither the time nor the physical stamina necessary to backpack into the river. The elderly, handicapped, and families with small children, who are now able to enjoy the types of outdoor recreation that are only available at year-round flowing streams, would essentially be deprived of these resources.

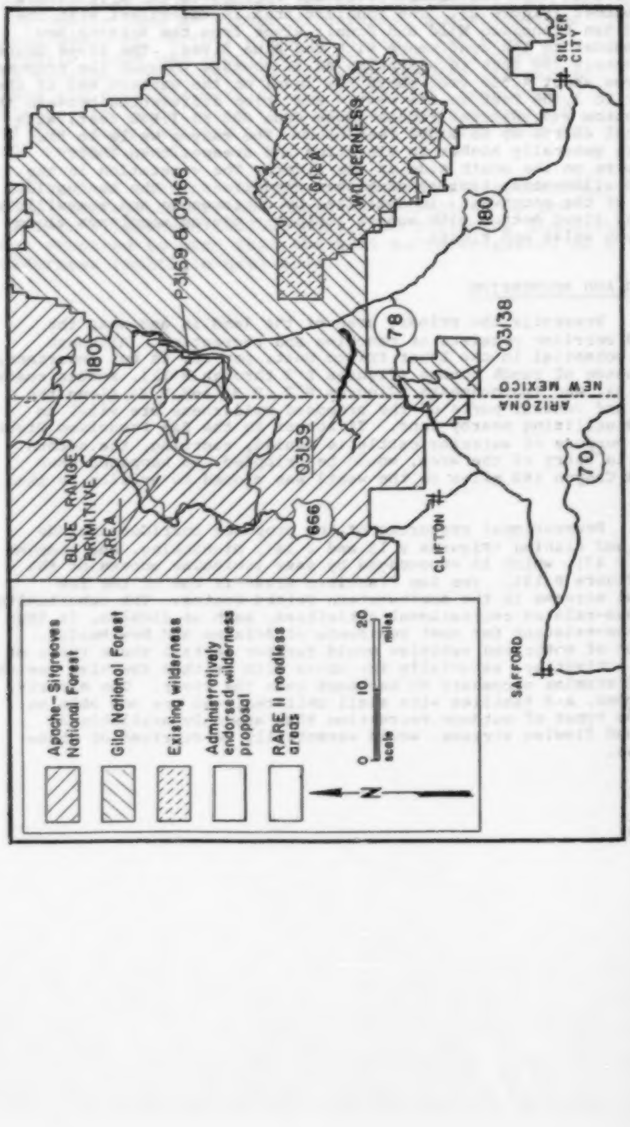

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
Gila National Forest
Existing wilderness
Administratively endorsed wilderness proposal
RARE II roadless areas
0 10 20
scale miles
N
BLUE RANGE PRIMITIVE AREA
180
P3159 & 03166
GILA WILDERNESS
03139
666
NEW MEXICO
ARIZONA
78
03138
180
CLIFTON
70
SAFFORD
SILVER CITY

Figure 1. Location map of RARE II proposed wilderness and further study areas.

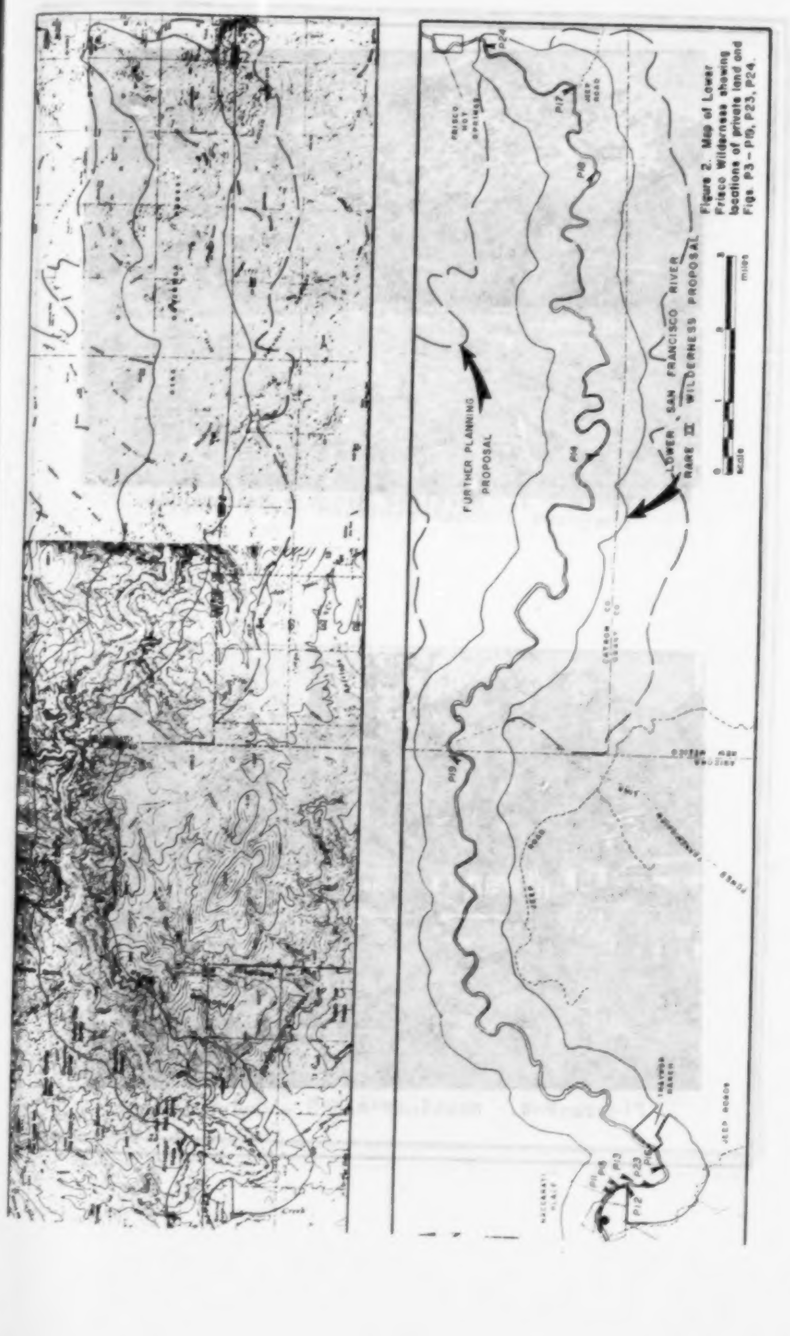

FURTHER PLANNING PROPOSAL
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER RARE II WILDERNESS PROPOSAL
FRISCO HOT SPRINGS
JEEP ROAD
CATRON CO.
GRANT CO.
TRAVERS RANCH
JEEP ROADS
P24
P17
P18
P14
P15
P11
P13
P23
P16
P12
0
1
2
3
scale
miles

Figure 2. Map of Lower Frisco Wilderness showing locations of private land and Figs. P3 – P15, P23, P24.

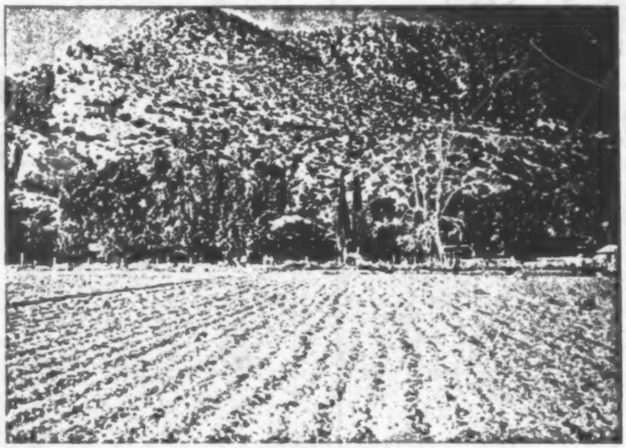


Figure P 3. Martinez Ranch - Main House

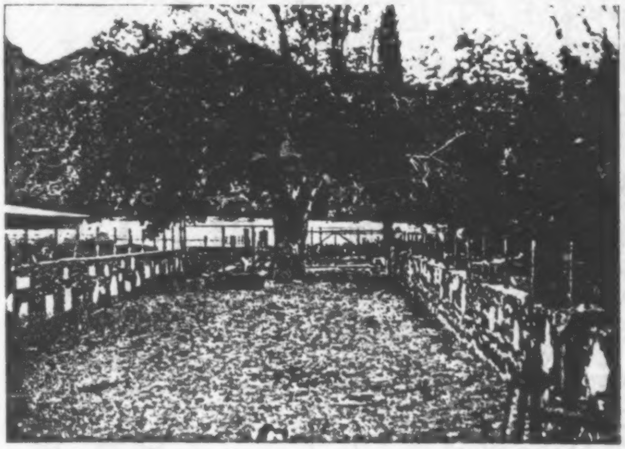


Figure P 4. Martinez Ranch - Courtyard

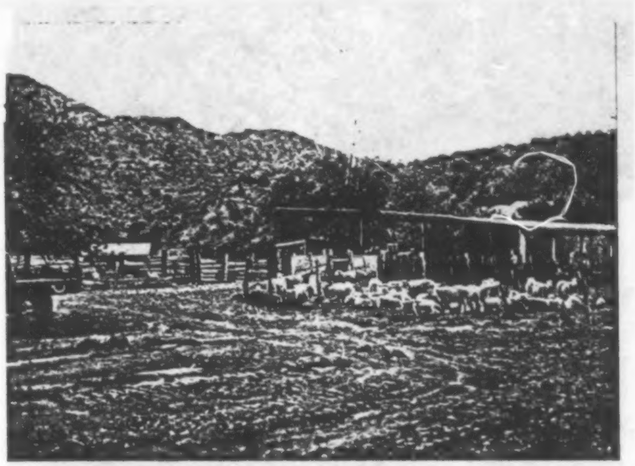


Figure P 5. Martinez Ranch - Barnyard

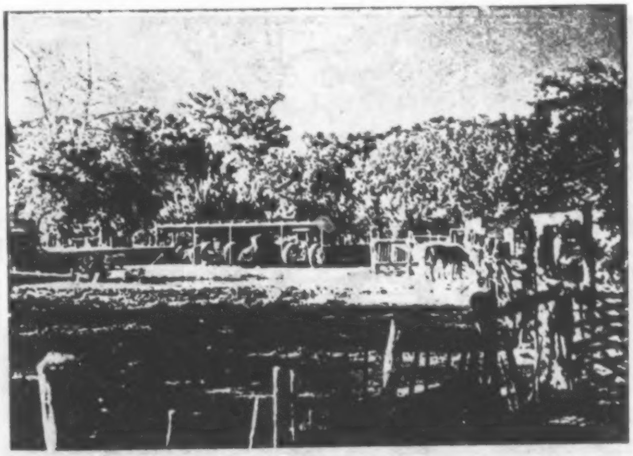


Figure P 6. Martinez Ranch - Corrals

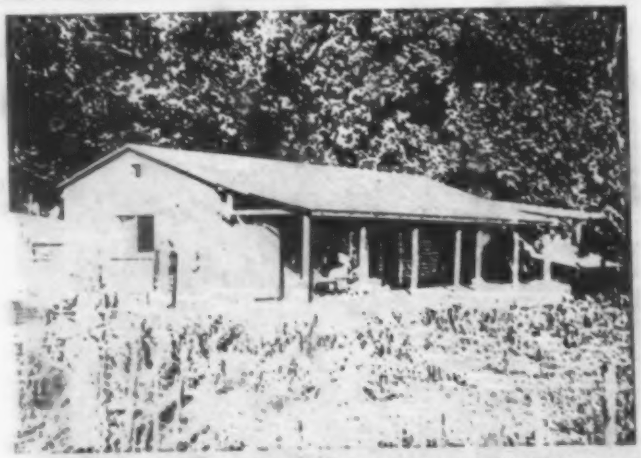


Figure P 7. Martinez Ranch - Bunkhouse

Figure P 8. Martinez Ranch - Vehicles

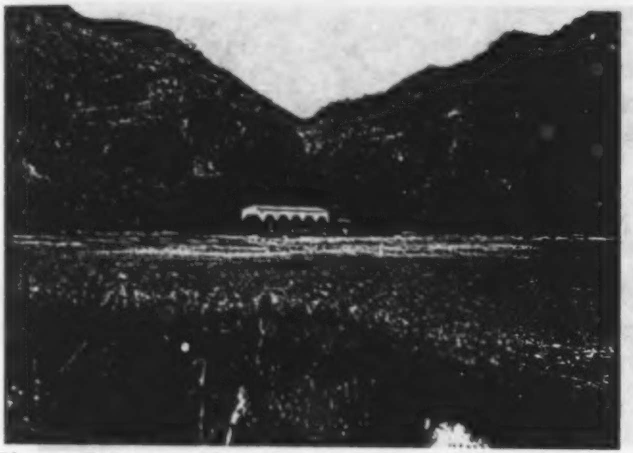


Figure P 9. Martinez Ranch - Pasture and Hay Barn

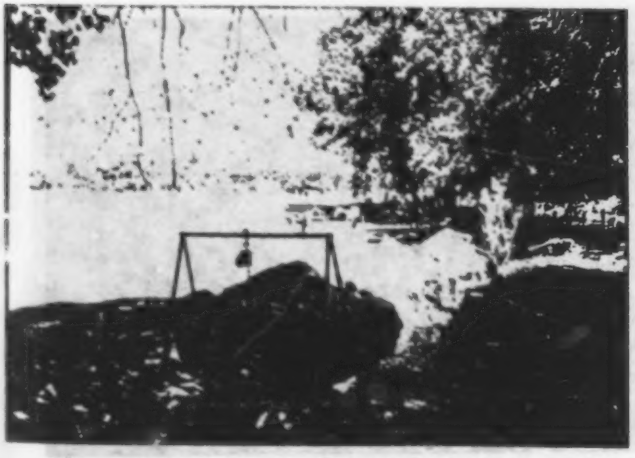


Figure P 10. Martinez Ranch - Water Canal

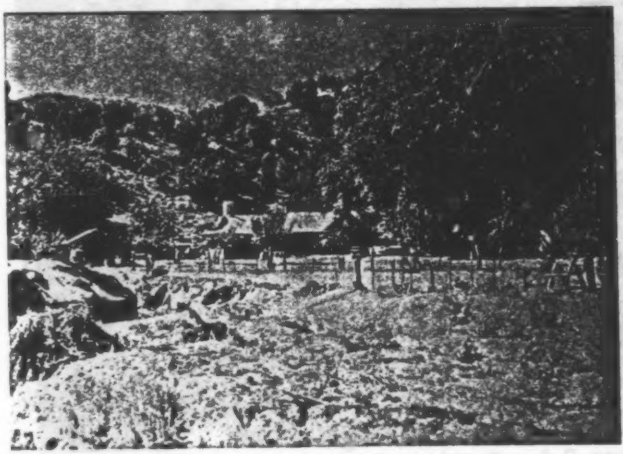


Figure P 11. Naccarati Home

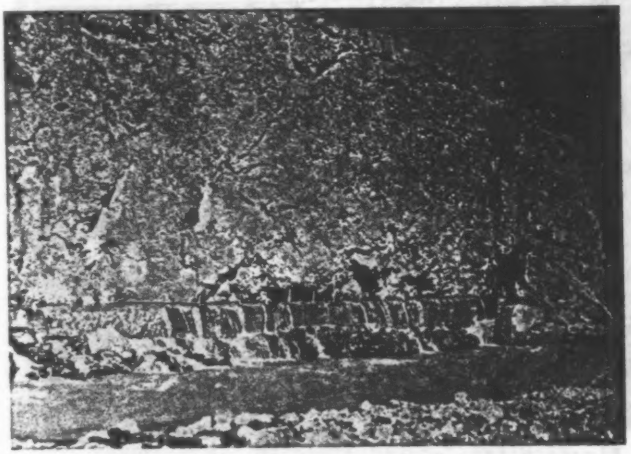


Figure P 12. Martinez Water Diversion

Figure P 13. Martinez Water Diversion

Figure P 14. Mouth of Mule Creek with Fence

Figure P 15. Fisherman Above Martinez Ranch

Figure P 16. Fishermen Below Naccarati Ranch

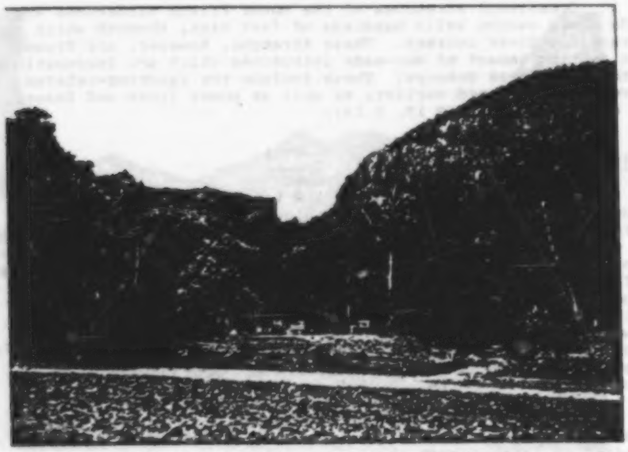


Figure P 17. Campers at Mouth of Big Dry Creek

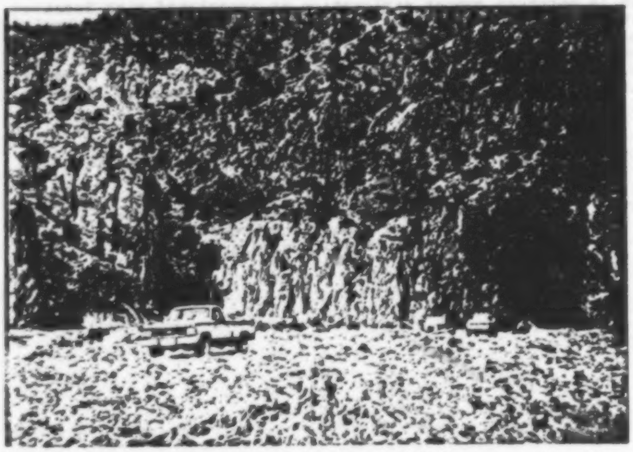


Figure P 18. Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles on the River

Occasional stretches of the Lower Frisco Wilderness Area include sheer canyon walls hundreds of feet high, through which the San Francisco River courses. These stretchs, however, are fragmented by the jarring impact of man-made intrusions which are incompatible with the wilderness concept. These include the ranching-related improvements mentioned earlier, as well as power lines and fences which cross the river (P 19, P 14).

PORPHYRY COPPER POTENTIAL

The mineral potential of the Lower Frisco Unit should be considered moderate and moderate to high for two types of ore deposits: 1) porphyry copper deposits, and 2) precious and/or base metal vein deposits, respectively. Porphyry copper deposits account for more than half of the world's copper production, as well as significant amounts of molybdenum, gold, and silver, making this class of deposits one of the most important to the world's mineral economy. This importance gains an even greater significance when the southwestern United States porphyry copper province is considered. This province supplies nearly 20% of the world's copper, and over 85% of the copper produced in the United States (Southerland Brown and Cathro, 1976).

Nearly all porphyry copper deposits in the southwestern United States are associated in time and space with 45-70 million year old bodies of igneous rock that were emplaced a few kilometers below the earth's surface. By mid-Tertiary time (30 million years ago), erosion had stripped the layers of rock from above the majority of deposits, exposing them to near-surface processes which leached low-grade mineralization from a large volume of rock and concentrated it into tabular high grade ore bodies. These enriched zones, called supergene blankets, were protected from erosional destruction by mid- and late-Tertiary volcanic and sedimentary cover. The prevailing problem in porphyry copper exploration is associated with locating deposits beneath these younger strata. Current exploration tools are virtually ineffective in detecting copper mineralization beneath volcanic cover. However, new techniques may be developed in the future, and unfettered access would be essential in order to evaluate potential deposits. The Lower Frisco Wilderness Unit is an attractive target for such exploration for the following reasons:

1) The proposed corridor lies on the presently-known edge of the largest copper provinces in the world, and is in close proximity to several known deposits (Figure 20). Case histories have shown that exploration projects near known deposits are usually more successful than those in virgin territory (Bailly, 1972).

Figure P. 19. Power Transmission Line

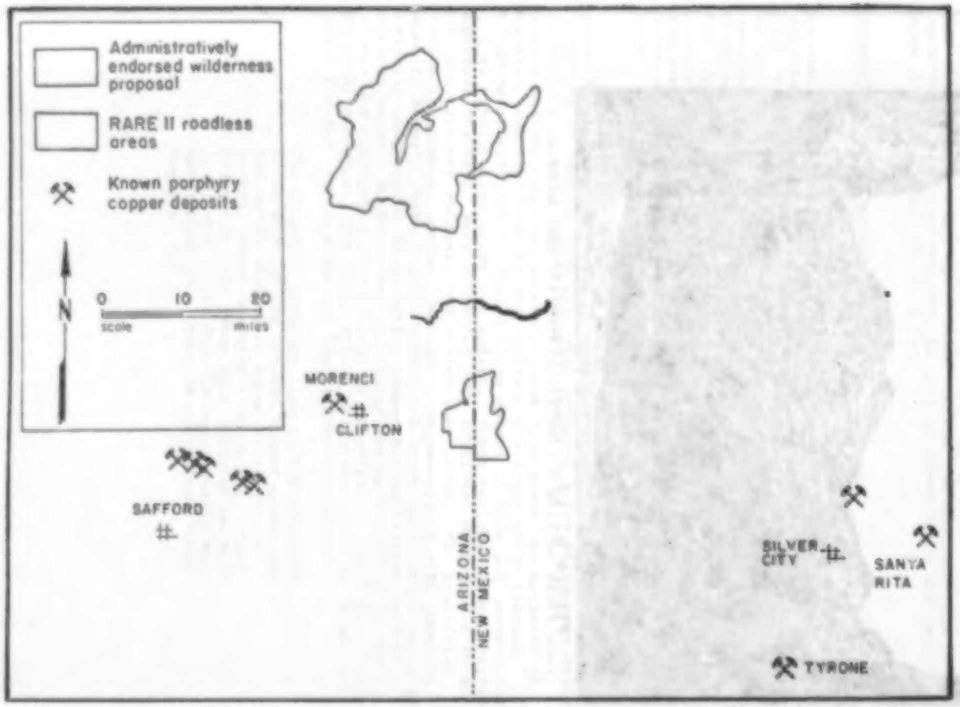

Administratively endorsed wilderness proposal
RARE II roadless areas
Known porphyry copper deposits
N
0
10
20
scale
miles
MORENCI
CLIFTON
SAFFORD
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
SILVER CITY
SANTA RITA
TYRONE

Figure 20. Location map of producing and developing porphyry copper ore deposits.

2) The development of a supergene blanket over low grade mineralization increases the probability that a mineral discovery will be economically feasible to mine. Prudent exploration, then, should be concentrated in regions where supergene blankets are likely to occur. Nearby ore bodies (Morenci, Tyrone, Santa Rita, Figure 20) have well developed supergene blankets, indicating that the mid-Tertiary erosional surface of the region was near enough to low grade mineralization to form high grade ore.

3) The unit is covered by 30-32 million year old volcanics, which would protect the possible orebody from erosion. Volcanics of similar age also covered the Morenci and Santa Rita ore bodies; erosion, however, re-exposed enough of the ore bodies that they were discovered by surface inspection.

BASE AND PRECIOUS METALS

Recent studies by a number of workers have suggested that the processes which form volcanic basins (cauldrons) may also be responsible for precious and/or base metal deposition along the edges of the basins (i.e., Steven et al, 1976; Elston et al, 1976; Elston, 1978). Mining districts (and metals produced) that are thought to be related to cauldron formation include: Creede, Colorado (Au, Ag, Pb, Zn); Pachuco, Mexico (Ag); Magdelena, New Mexico (Au, Ag, Pb, Zn, Cu, Mn, CaF_2, and $BaSO_4$); and Mogollon, New Mexico (Au, Ag). Figure 21, modified after Elston (1978), shows the locations of recently-identified cauldrons of mid-Tertiary age (20-30 million years ago) in relation to mineralization of similar ages. The eastern edge of the corridor is underlain by the Mogollon cauldron complex (Figure 21). This cauldron is relatively old (~32 million years) in comparison with other mid-Tertiary cauldrons and related volcanics, and is partially obscured by younger volcanic flows and structures (Elston et al, 1976). There is a moderate to high potential for gold and silver mineralization associated with the Mogollon cauldron. The Blue Fault is thought to have been active over a long span of geologic time, possibly acting as a localizing agent of ore deposits. Exploration programs based on this premise to the north have been successful in finding mineralization (Schern, 1975). The potential for discovering ore deposits along the Blue Fault in or near the proposed wilderness corridor must be considered moderate to high.

Of critical importance are concealed mineral and energy resources that cannot be discerned by casual inspection of the surface geology. Only through the detailed geological investigations integrated with the application of sophisticated geophysical and

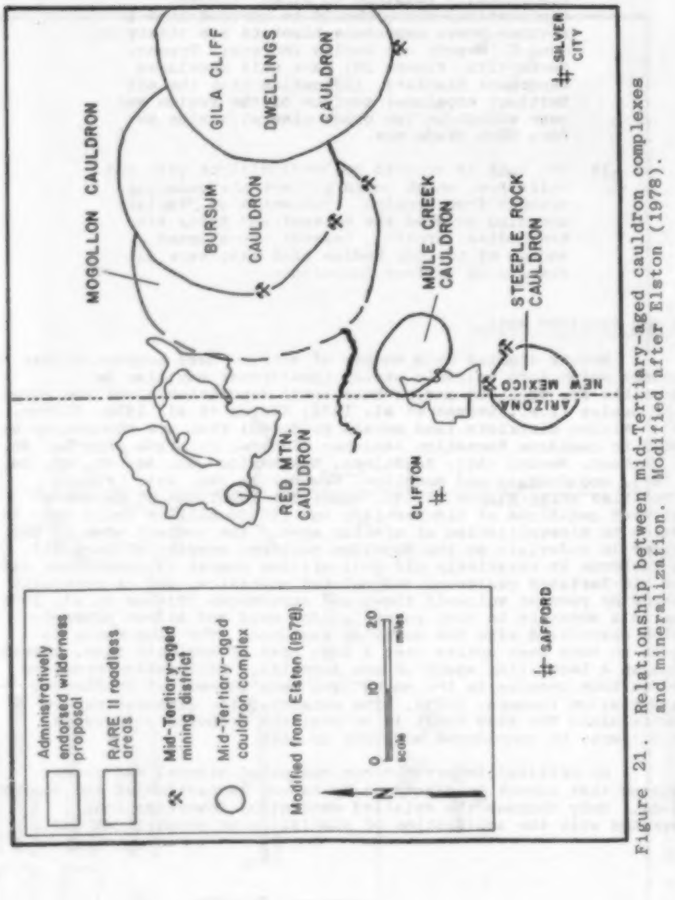

MOGOLLON CAULDRON
BURSUM
CAULDRON
GILA CLIFF
DWELLINGS
CAULDRON
SILVER CITY
MULE CREEK CAULDRON
STEEPLE ROCK CAULDRON
RED MTN. CAULDRON
CLIFTON
SAFFORD
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
Administratively endorsed wilderness proposal
RARE II roadless areas
Mid-Tertiary-aged mining district
Mid-Tertiary-aged cauldron complex
Modified from Elston (1978)
N
0
10
20
scale
miles

Figure 21. Relationship between mid-Tertiary-aged cauldron complexes and mineralization. Modified after Elston (1978).

geochemical techniques and drilling can an area be properly evaluated. Mineral and energy resources, then, are unlike other resources of public land, in that they are located below the surface and are not easily ascertained.

Once an area has been included into the Wilderness system, it is virtually impossible to enter the land in order to determine the existence of mineral potential. Even if the Forest Service agrees to allow mineral exploration in a wilderness area, the delays and special logistic problems unique to exploration in a wilderness can easily triple the costs (Schern, 1975). It has been shown that approximately 25 years pass between the initial discovery and actual copper production from an ore deposit. Thus, as an example, by the time critical shortages of copper are apparent, it would be too late to alleviate those shortages by encouraging new exploration in wilderness areas. In addition, court actions by private citizens (i.e. environmental groups) may critically hinder exploration projects even with full Forest Service cooperation. Proper evaluation of the mineral and energy potential of public land can only be accomplished when that land is managed as multiple use.

GEOTHERMAL

As seen in Figure 22, the western part of the Lower Frisco Wilderness proposal is underlain by the Blue Fault Zone, along which several hot springs and Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRA's) are localized. Along with presently active indications of geothermal resources, deposits of travertine (Figure P 23) along the fault zone indicate a long history of hot spring and hydrothermal activity. In addition to these hot springs and KGRA's, there are indications of geothermal resources in the eastern part of the corridor. Hot spring activity (Figures P 24, 22) at the eastern edge of the corridor may be localized by ring structures on the outskirts of the Mogollon cauldera. Similar controls for potential geothermal resources have been proposed elsewhere (Chapin et al, 1978). Ongoing studies, funded by the Department of Energy, indicate that there is very good potential for high temperature (greater than 150°C) geothermal reservoirs in and near the corridor (Witcher, in press). The potential for geothermal resources, either as a source of energy or high quality water, must outweigh the wilderness resources of the Lower Frisco River.

AIR QUALITY

Under the Clean Air Act, individual states have the authority to designate wilderness area to Class I or Class I air quality levels. The Federal Government is not directly responsible for the actual designation of these stringent air quality levels. However, by classifying a roadless area as wilderness, the Federal Government is responsible for creating a situation under which the states are influenced to so redesignate an area.

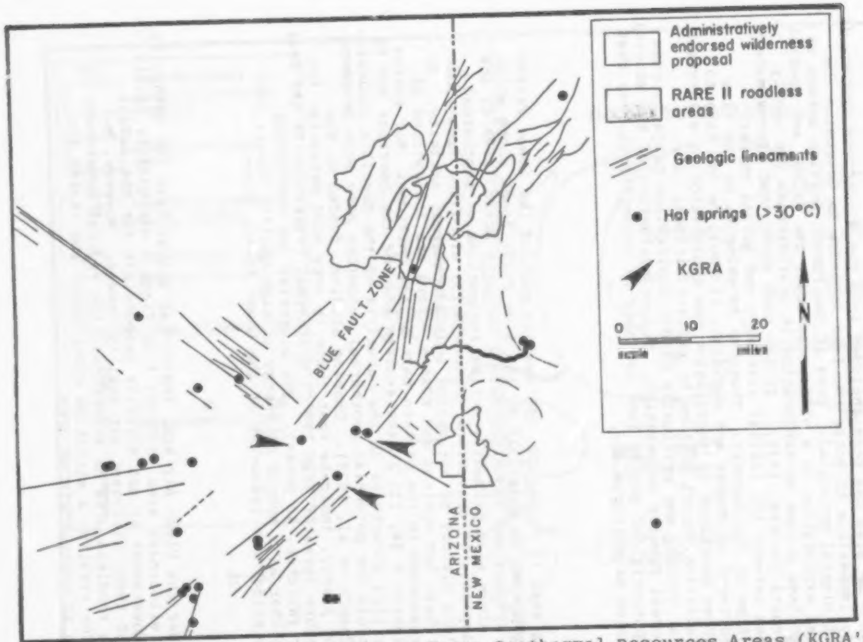

Administratively endorsed wilderness proposal
RARE II roadless areas
Geologic lineaments
Hot springs (>30°C)
KGRA
0
10
20
scale
miles
N
BLUE FAULT ZONE
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO

Figure 22. Identified hot springs, Known Geothermal Resources Areas (KGRA's), and lineaments in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. Data compiled from Ratte et al.(1969), Lepley (1977), Swanberg et al.(1977), and Elston (1978).

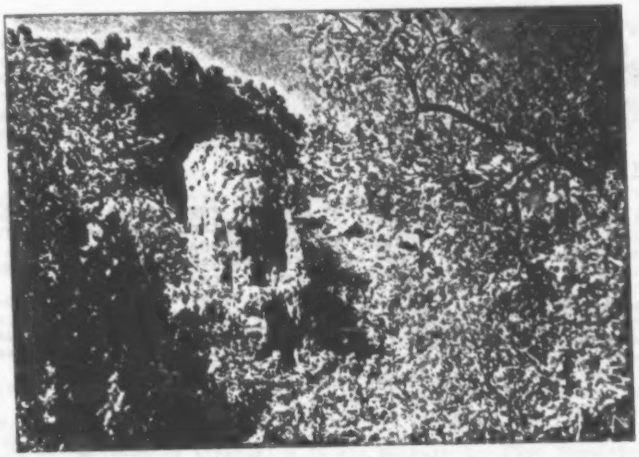


Figure P 23. Travertine Deposit - Ancient Hot Springs

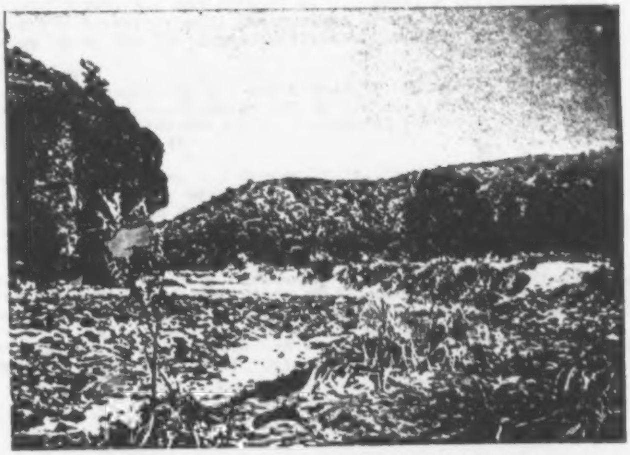


Figure P 24. Lower Frisco Hot Springs

The smelter which recovers and refines copper from the world's third largest open pit copper mine is only 15 miles southwest of the proposed Lower Frisco Wilderness, with another smelter within 50 miles to the southeast. The redesignation of the Unit as Class I, or even Class II, could seriously affect the local and national economy. By designating the Lower Frisco RARE II area as non-wilderness, this potentially dangerous situation will not develop.

SUMMARY

The Lower Frisco Wilderness proposal encompasses an important stretch of the San Francisco River in terms of the present and future potential impact on the economical and recreational resources of Greenlee County. Ranches in the area are dependent on access to the river in order to successfully utilize nearby grazing lands. The recreational value of the river is unique in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, and is easily accessible to motorized vehicles. The true potential of the proposed corridor and surrounding area for mineral and geothermal resources has yet to be fully explored. As a possible consequence of the Clean Air Act, the development of mineral resources now being mined in the immediate vicinity could be severely curtailed. For these reasons, it is urged that the San Francisco River remain open under multiple use management.

RP:jc
12-28-79

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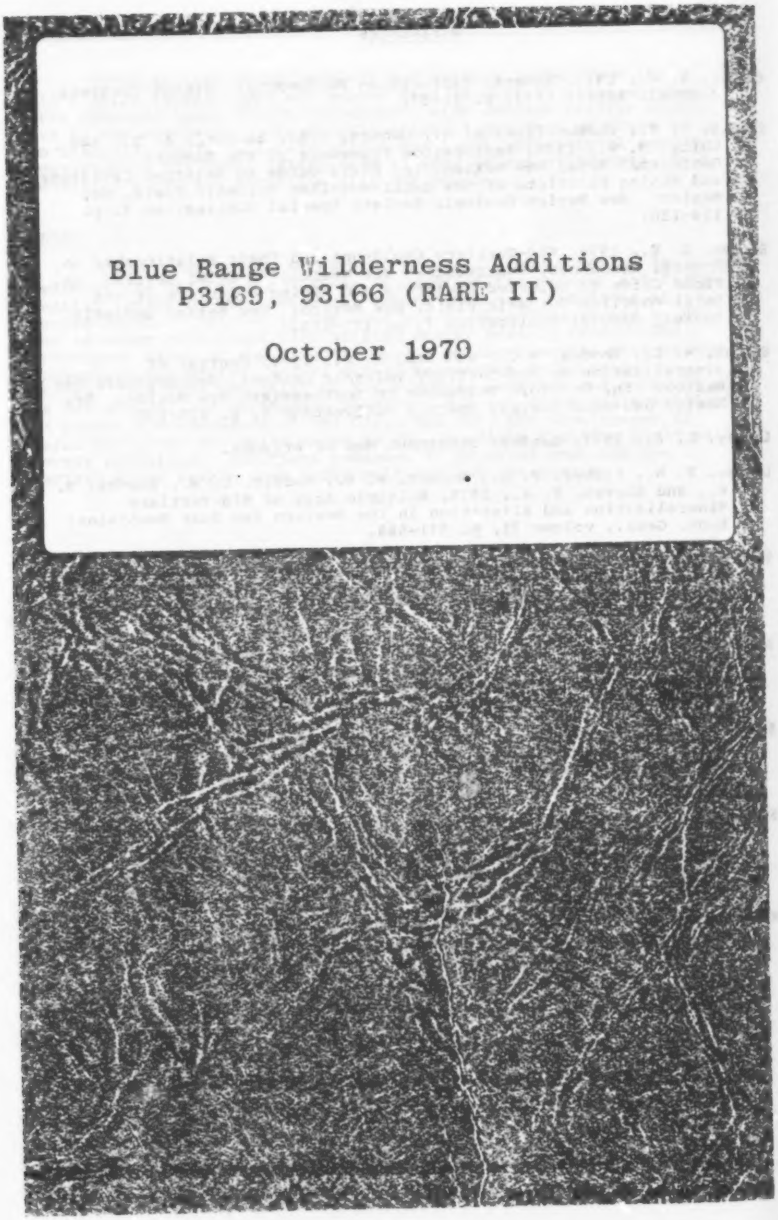


Blue Range Wilderness Additions
P3169, 93166 (RARE II)

October 1979

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In January, 1979, the U. S. Forest Service released its Final Environmental Statement of the RARE II process. This statement contained recommendations for the designation of more than 2900 roadless areas comprising 62 million acres of public land as either wilderness, non-wilderness (multiple use), or further planning units. The study of these public lands was completed over a two year period and was necessarily superficial in some aspects, in particular base and precious metals, and geothermal resources. In addition, it is believed that several other potential uses of the lands included in the RARE II program were not properly investigated.

In light of the untested mineral potential, geothermal potential, ranching operations and human impact upon the Blue Range Wilderness additions (P3169, 03166), the following discussion has been prepared to urge that the units be redesignated as non-wilderness (multiple-use) areas.

Blue Range Wilderness

Additions P3169, 03166 (RARE II)

Areas P3169 and 03166 are intended to be included as part of the eastern edge of the Blue Range Primitive Area (Fig. 1). The Blue Range Addition totals approximately 27,580 acres, with 1,090 acres in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Greenlee County, Arizona, and 26,490 acres located in the Apache and Gila National Forests, Catron County, New Mexico. Elevations average about 6000 feet above sea level, increasing from south to north. Vegetation ranges from pinyon-juniper woodlands in the lower elevations to ponderosa pine, aspen, and Douglas fir in the upland portions of the units.

RANCHING AND TIMBER

Land use consists primarily of cattle ranching, with ranching headquarters, roads, and numerous range improvements within the proposed wilderness addition. Inclusion of the area into the wilderness system would severely handicap the area's ranches in pursuing their livelihood. Commercial timber resource development potential, particularly in the northern part of the Units, is also present. Catron County, New Mexico, with no developed industry, has the lowest per capita income in the State of New Mexico. Stripping the residents of potential income derived from utilization of the lumber and ranching resources in the proposed addition can only harm the already struggling economy of the county.

BASE AND PRECIOUS METALS

Recent studies by a number of workers have suggested that the processes which form volcanic basins (cauldrons) may also be responsible for precious and/or base metal deposition along the edges of the basins (i.e., Steven et al., 1974; Lipmon et al., 1976: Elston et al., 1976; Elston, 1978). Mining districts (and metals produced) that are thought to be related to cauldron formation include: Creede, Colorado (Au, Ag, Pb, Zn); Pachuco, Mexico (Ag); Magdelena,

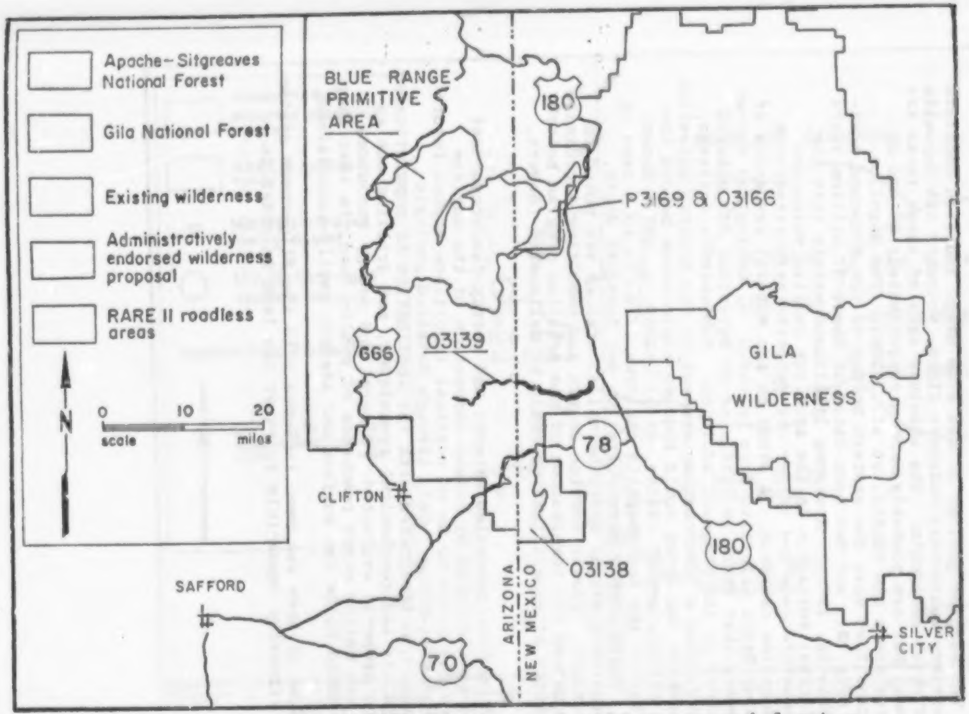

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
Gila National Forest
Existing wilderness
Administratively endorsed wilderness proposal
RARE II roadless areas
N
0
10
20
scale
miles
BLUE RANGE PRIMITIVE AREA
180
P3169 & 03166
GILA WILDERNESS
666
03139
78
CLIFTON
180
03138
SAFFORD
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
70
SILVER CITY

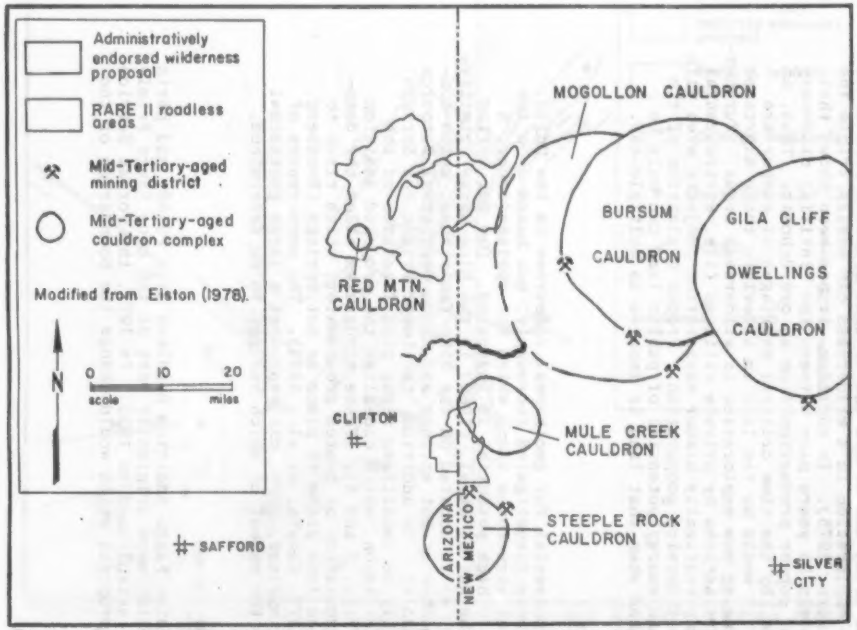
Figure 1. Location map of RARE II proposed wilderness and further study areas.

New Mexico (Au, Ag, Pb, Zn, Cu, Mn, CaF_2, and $BaSO_4$); and Mogollon, New Mexico (Au, Ag). Figure 2, modified after Elston (1978), shows the locations of recently-identified cauldrons of mid-Tertiary age (20-30 million years ago) in relation to mineralization of similar ages.

The surface geology of the Blue Range Addition consists of Tertiary-Quaternary volcanic flows, volcanic ash deposits, and fluvial sediments. The absolute ages of these rocks are unknown, but are probably between approximately 24 and 39 million years old (Ratte, et al., 1969). The Mogollon cauldron lies near the eastern border of the proposed addition (Fig. 2), and has been dated at about 37 million years old (Elston, 1978). A strong likelihood exists that the superficial volcanics in the area may overlie volcanics and possible gold and silver ore deposits associated with the Mogollon cauldron. A study on the mineral resources of the Blue Range Primitive Area by the U. S. Geological survey suggested that there is little or no potential for mineral resources in the proposed addition. The authors realized, however, that a "thorough assessment of the mineral potential at depth in the areas would require exploration beyond the scope of this study" (Ratte, et al., 1969, p. 43). Recent drilling of the Red Mountain cauldron (Fig. 2) is a case in point, where copper mineralization was found at depth, although only slight hydrothermal alteration was noted on the surface. Forest Service delays and resulting inordinate costs caused the termination of the drilling program before the extent of mineralization could be delineated (Schern, 1975).

Therefore, concealed mineral and energy resources that cannot be discerned by casual inspection of the surface geology may prove to be of critical importance to our future economic well-being. Only through detailed geologic investigations integrated with the application of sophisticated geophysical and geochemical techniques, and drilling can an area be properly evaluated. Mineral and energy resources, then, are unlike other resources of public land, in that they are located below the surface and are not easily ascertained.

Once an area has been included into the Wilderness system, it is virtually impossible to enter the land in order to


Administratively endorsed wilderness proposal
RARE II roadless areas
Mid-Tertiary-aged mining district
Mid-Tertiary-aged cauldron complex
Modified from Elston (1978).
N
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scale miles
MOGOLLON CAULDRON
BURSUM CAULDRON
GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS CAULDRON
RED MTN. CAULDRON
CLIFTON
MULE CREEK CAULDRON
STEEPLE ROCK CAULDRON
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
SAFFORD
SILVER CITY

Figure 2. Relationship between mid-Tertiary-aged cauldron complexes and mineralization. Modified after Elston (1978).

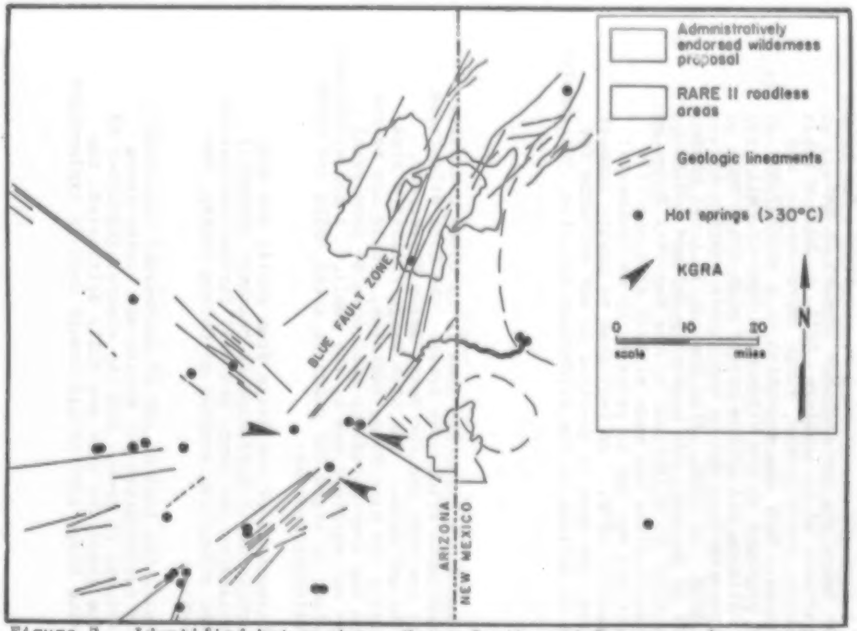
determine the existence of mineral potential. Even if the Forest service agrees to allow mineral exploration in a wilderness area, the delays and special logistic problems unique to exploration in a wilderness can easily triple the costs (Schern, 1975). In addition, it has been shown that approximately 25 years pass between the intitial discovery and actual copper production from an ore deposit. Thus, as an example, by the time critical shortages of copper are apparent, it would be too late to alleviate those shortages by encouraging new exploration in wilderness areas. Furthermore, court actions by private citizens (i.e. environmental groups) may critically hinder exploration projects even with full Forest Service cooperation. Proper evaluation of the mineral and energy potential of public land can only be accomplished when that land is managed as multiple-use.

GEOTHERMAL

The potential for geothermal resources in the Units have not been investigated thoroughly, but based upon the presence of structures along which hot springs occur, a moderate to high potential is indicated. One hot spring reported by Ratte, et al. (1969) in the Blue Range Primitive Area (Fig. 4) is located on the Blue Fault zone, which contains a number of hot springs and Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRA's). In addition, the Lower Frisco Hot Springs may possibly be locallized along ring fractures of the Mogollon cauldron, which underlies the proposed Addition (compare Figs. 3 and 4). These structures allow the deep-seated circulation of heated groundwater, which rises to the surface from place to place as hot springs (Swanberg, et al., 1977; Chapin, et.al., 1978). The occurrences of these hot springs, then, may represent a large geothermal resource, the extent of which has yet to be determined.

DISCUSSION

The Blue Range Addition Roadless Area P3169, and parts of Area 03166 were originally part of the Blue Range Primitive Area established in 1933. In 1971, the Forest Service issued a proposal which would change the boundaries of the


Administratively endorsed wilderness proposal
RARE II roadless areas
Geologic lineaments
Hot springs (>30°C)
KGRA
0
10
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scale
miles
N
BLUE FAULT ZONE
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO

Figure 3. Identified hot springs, Known Geothermal Resources Areas (KGRA's), and lineaments in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. Data compiled from Ratte et al.(1969), Lepley (1977), Swanburg et'al.(1977), and Elston (1978).

Primitive Area in order to meet the criteria specified by the Wilderness Act. The present proposed 27,580 acre Addition is essentially the same as the 29,443 acre Exclusion 2 that was recommended as unsuitable for wilderness as "it bears the unmistakable imprint of man" (U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1971, p. 20), which includes roads, ranch houses, range improvements, and timbered areas. With the exception of a small 7,670 acre tract proposed by the Wilderness Society, all concerned citizens and groups agreed with the Forest Service recommendation during the public hearing in December, 1969. In 1978, after the public input phase of the RARE II process, the presently-defined Addition was recommended for wilderness by the Regional Forester. This reclassification was made without site-specific public input and was due to pressure by environmental groups (Hassell, 1979). As indicated by public comment, when allowed, the area in question is not suitable for wilderness as defined by the Wilderness Act, i.e. "untrammled by man."

SUMMARY

The Blue Range Primitive Area is in close proximity to two established wilderness areas: the Gila Wilderness, 10 miles to the east, and the Mount Baldy Wilderness, miles to the northwest. The Blue Range Primitive Area, and especially the Blue Range Addition, should not be excluded from the ever-dwindling land open to commercial development and multiple use by the public. A non-wilderness classification is urged for roadless areas P3169 and 03166 for the following reasons:

1) Withdrawal of the units from public use will create undue hardships on ranchers currently utilizing the land, and will further impoverish the struggling economy of Catron County, New Mexico.

2) Until the full extent of geothermal resources of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona is known, and the mineral resources of the immediate area are fully delineated, the Blue Range area should remain open to exploration.

3) The Areas P3169 and 03166 are unsuitable for wilderness due to the indelible mark of man in the form of roads, ranching headquarters, ranch improvements, and logging scars.

4) The Wilderness density in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico is more than ample to meet the present and future reasonable projected use by the small percentage of public that enjoy such recreation opportunities at the expense of the citizens who collectively own the land.

Blue Range Wilderness Additions
P3169, 03166 (RARE II)

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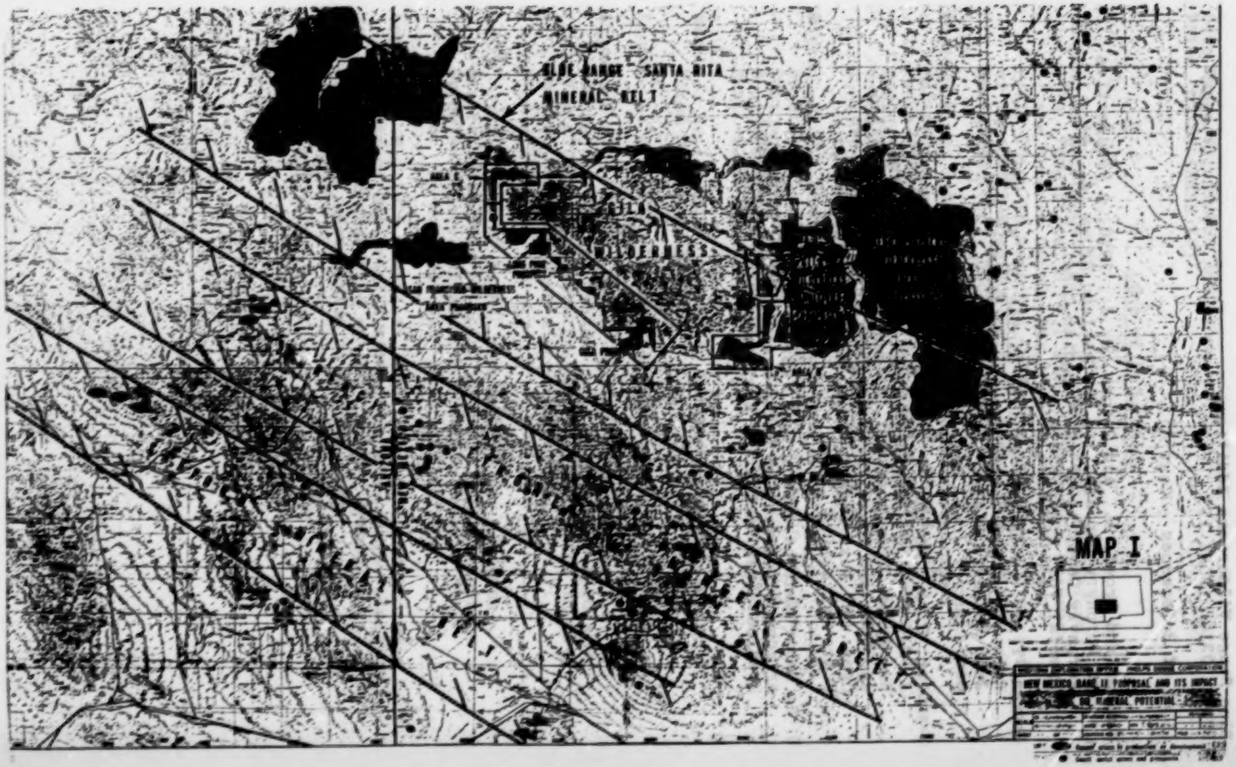
BLACK RANGE – SANTA RITA
MINERAL BELT
GILA
WILDERNESS
MAP I
NEW MEXICO RARE II PROPOSAL AND ITS IMPACT
ON MINERAL POTENTIAL

phelps dodge Corporation, Tyrone Branch, Tyrone, New Mexico 88065 • (505) 538-5331

June 10, 1980

The Honorable Dale Bumpers, Chairman
Parks, Recreation and Renewable
Resources Subcommittee of the
Senate Energy and Natural
Resources Committee
3106 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20013

Dear Senator Bumpers:

At the request of Senators Domenici and Schmitt during the May 29, 1980 hearing on S. 2583, "The New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980", I am submitting these additional comments. It is my understanding that the record has been held open for submittal of these comments until June 12, 1980. Phelps Dodge Corporation would appreciate the inclusion of these comments in the hearing record.

During the discussion of the Phelps Dodge Corporation Gila Project, located within the Gila Fluorspar District on the southwest edge of the existing Gila Wilderness and partially within the Gila Wilderness Proposal, Senators Domenici and Schmitt requested the following additional information.

A. The annual consumption of fluorspar in the United States.

The United States consumption of fluorspar amounted to 1.22 million short tons in 1979, which was an increase of 14 percent over 1978. Fifty-three percent of the fluorspar consumed was in the form of acid grade (greater than 97% CaF_2) with the remainder being gravel spar that was utilized by the steel industry. Approximately 85 percent of the fluorspar is imported into the United States with a major portion coming from South Africa. At present, the 15 percent of U.S. fluorspar consumption, that is produced in this country, is derived from the Illinois-Kentucky-Tennessee area.

B. The amount of fluorspar historically mined within the Gila Fluorspar District.

The Gila Fluorspar District was discovered in the early 1800's. Some fluorspar production took place during both World War I and World War II with total production estimated at approximately 50,000 tons. Presently there is a small amount of development work within the District.

C. An estimate of the amount of fluorspar that could be developed from the District remaining outside the existing Gila wilderness area and its potential impact on U.S. dependence on a foreign fluorspar supply.

An accurate estimation of the amount of fluorspar that potentially occurs in the Gila Fluorspar District is very difficult to provide. Numerous veins of fluorspar occur pervasively through the District, which encompasses approximately 50 square miles. Continued exploration may result in the discovery of one or more fluorspar deposits of economic grade. Based upon Phelps Dodge exploration, it is likely that a viable deposit exists in the District, which could provide between 5 to 25 percent of the U.S. consumption depending on mining rate. The United States uses fluorspar for a wide variety of applications, including fluorocarbon refrigerants (not an environmentally harmful use), hydrofluoric acid, fluosilicic acid (used to make chemicals for smelting primary aluminum), fluosol artifical blood, and water fluoridation chemicals. Thus, the development of a known fluorspar district should not be overlooked.

Toward the end of 1979, a shortage began to develop in the world fluorspar supplies. This was due to reduced shipments from Mexican sources, a shutdown of Spanish operations, a shutdown of a major low-grade South African mine, a slowdown of shipments from Thailand due to political instability, a temporary shutdown in Kenya, and closure of a mine operated by Allied Chemical in Illinois.

Phelps Dodge Corporation's exploration efforts in the Gila Fluorspar District will continue. To date, results of drilling two test holes are being evaluated for the importance of both molybdenum and fluorspar mineralization that was intercepted in the holes. We would recommend that the Gila Fluorspar District, and specifically the areas surrounding our Gila Project, be considered for deletion from the New Mexico RARE II legislation.

Additionally, two other questions were asked during the hearing that we wish to clarify and have included in the record.

1. Did the U.S. Forest Service have access to the information presented during the hearing on mineral potential of the Blue Range Primitive Area in New Mexico and Arizona?

The Forest Service was supplied detailed information on Phelps Dodge Corporation's activities in the Blue Range during all comment periods of the RARE II program. We supplied the Forest Service with a summary of our 1969-1974 Blue Range Exploration Drilling Program that led to the discovery of copper mineralization below approximately 2,000 feet of post-mineral volcanic rocks. In addition, we discussed our exploration program on the Blue Range Primitive Area with several high ranking officials of the U.S. Geological Survey in 1974. Phelps Dodge also presented the map titled "Mineral Belt Influence on RARE II

Alternatives" that has been presented as part of our May 29, 1980 testimony. Information that was not provided to the Forest Service (being of a confidential nature) consisted of our 1974 aeromagnetic surveys over the Blue Range Primitive Area, the western portion of the Gila Wilderness and Gila Wilderness additions.

2. Can drilling and access be conducted today in a manner that will not significantly impair the surface resources?

Phelps Dodge Corporation feels that the mineral industry has made great strides in considering and incorporating environmental safeguards into exploration programs. As an example, during Phelps Dodge Corporation's Blue Range Exploration Drilling Program in 1974, the areas impacted by the exploration program were successfully reseeded. The mining industry believes that acceptable economic access into an area must be secured and this usually means utilization of old roads or trails or the development of new access routes to the drill site. However, consideration for access routes that would have the least adverse environmental impacts are now common practice and in some instances the route can be rehabilitated and reseeded to show minimal environmental impact. An alternate drill site cannot often be utilized to test a proposed anomaly.

The cumulative value of mineral production in the United States over the last 50 years is over $2 trillion, based on 1975 constant dollars. Exhausted mines, declining grades and fewer discoveries are the main reasons that the current annual mineral production of $20 billion is roughly half the 50 year historic average of $40 billion, using a 1975 basis. The mining industry employs less than 2/10 of one percent of the available work force, yet contributes up to 10 percent of the gross national product and has disturbed less than 1/6 of one percent of the total land mass of the United States of which 40 percent has been reclaimed. The remainder, including both active and inactive mines, contributes an average of $10,000 per acre per year to the gross national product.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these additional comments.

Yours very truly,

A E Himebaugh

A. E. Himebaugh
Manager

AEH:ajs

cc: Senator Harrison H. Schmitt
Senator Pete V. Domenici

Senator DOMENICI. Mr. Augustine.

STATEMENT OF JOHN AUGUSTINE, CONTINENTAL OIL CO., ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

Mr. AUGUSTINE. Mr. Chairman, Senator, I am John Augustine. I work for Conoco Minerals in Albuquerque. Conoco is a fully integrated energy company. We have oil, gas, coal, uranium, and metallic interest in New Mexico.

I want to describe to you the Pecos-Rociada mineralized belt of northern New Mexico, one of the more important mineralized areas of the United States. I want to briefly outline its economic and strategic importance to the State and to the Nation and I want you to share with me my company's serious concern in denying access and harvest of those minerals; by locking them up forever in a perpetual wilderness state.

Conoco, Inc., Metallics Division, has been pursuing an aggressive volcanogenic massive sulfide exploration program in the Southwestern United States since 1973. Current major exploration efforts in New Mexico are, unfortunately, closely tied to RARE II and wilderness designated acreage.

Volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits consist of high grade accumulation of copper, lead, zinc, gold, and silver, and occasionally contain substantial values of tin, tungsten, and cadmium with lesser amounts of cobalt and mercury. Most of these metals are considered to be strategic commodities by the U.S. Government.

Conoco's New Mexico exploration program is currently heavily involved in the Pecos-Rociada mineral belt which has a historical production record of unequaled comparison. This is due to the Pecos Mine which operated from 1925 to 1939 and alone produced 2.25 million tons of ore, valued today at $704 million.

If we add to that the production of the numerous other massive sulfide type mines located in the Pecos-Rociada mineral belt, a figure of at least $1 billion of past production at today's metal values can be obtained.

Conoco currently has an inventory of eight high potential massive sulfide targets, plus one partially proven massive sulfide deposit within the Rociada mineral belt for which we will spend nearly $2 million in our 1980 exploration program.

Most of these targets are either wholly contained within proposed RARE II or current wilderness boundaries or are partially affected by RARE II acreage.

Incorporating this proposed RARE II acreage into the current wilderness management program will eliminate all future production of metals from resulting wildernesses.

This could contribute to forcing the United States into a posture of increased foreign dependence for these strategic metals.

The withdrawal of this high potential ground will contribute to a negative impact on local economics which have historically higher unemployment rates than the national average causing standards of living lower than the national average.

The mining industry, if allowed to operate in mineral provinces such as the Pecos-Rociada belt, can change this economic picture positively by adding several hundred jobs and millions of dollars in wages and taxes directly to these local economies.

In the past, the withdrawal of public owned lands has sometimes been made without adequate examinations of the natural resource potential of that land. Let us not continue that practice.

We request that those RARE II proposed areas identified as B3038 lying east and south of the existing Pecos wilderness be excluded from further consideration as a wilderness area and be returned to multiple use.

Conoco welcomes an opportunity to endorse Senator Domenici's S. 2583. The linchpin of a sound RARE II bill lies, we believe, in its release provisions; that is, the specification of what is to happen to lands that were studied and perhaps even recommended for wilderness but were not so designated by Congress. Leaving such lands in administrative limbo perpetuates rather than solves a problem.

We believe Senator Domenici's S. 2583 answers all requirements of a balanced release program. It provides appropriate procedures and reasonable time tables. In setting a 3-year deadline for studying and classifying further planning areas, the bill finds compromise between conflicting public pressures.

Multiple use during that study period is permitted but under the strict Forest Service supervision with all regular Federal, State, and local environmental laws and standards in effect—a fair balance.

The bill seeks to avoid the problems recently encountered in California with a clear and specific statement on the sufficiency of the existing RARE II environmental impact statement.

The bill establishes unusual clarity, timeliness, and discipline to the wilderness recommendation process by requiring that recommendations to Congress be either recognized by that Congress in that current term or dropped, and that renominations be limited to a reasonable 10-year cycle.

Clear and precise guidelines and constraints such as those in S. 2583 are necessary for long-range planning and economic modeling in companies like my own.

My company compliments the delegation for their work on this bill.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Augustine follows:]

STATEMENT OF JOHN AUGUSTINE, CONTINENTAL OIL CO., ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

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Clear and precise guidelines and constraints such as those in S. 2583 are necessary for long range planning and economic modeling in companies like my own.

Senator SCHMITT. Do you know of any other areas in the Southwest of similar geologic characteristics where the kind of deposits that you are describing having been located?

Mr. AUGUSTINE. Would you mind if I referred to my geologist behind me?

Senator SCHMITT. Not at all.

Mr. STERLING. I am Phil Sterling. I have been a geologist for 25 years in exploration. In answer to your question, the Jerome in Arizona near Prescot was quite similar in origin and environment as what we are seeing in the Pecos area. The same age, too.

Senator SCHMITT. And do you recall the production figures from that?

Mr. STERLING. I hear 30 million tons. That is what I remember. I am rather vague on that. I think it was about 30 million tons and it was close to 7 percent of copper. Extremely high grade.

Senator SCHMITT. Is the Iron King Mine in that mineral belt?

Mr. STERLING. It is the same type of origin, a much smaller mine. The Iron King was maybe 1 million, 2 million tons.

The Jerome was 30 million.

Senator SCHMITT. Are there any other southwestern province mines of these kinds?

Mr. STERLING. Not of the magnitude of the Jerome. It has just been within the last 7 or 8 years as you know that we fully understood the origin of these types of other bodies and we are really only beginning to know how to prospect for them and this is why we are going back into old areas with new ideas.

Senator SCHMITT. The Canadian experience, is that similar to what you are having here?

Mr. STERLING. Yes, Senator.

Senator SCHMITT. Thank you. I appreciate your testimony.

Senator DOMENICI. We have additional communications that I would like to make part of the record.

We have a February 29 correspondence from the American Federation of Labor indicating their feelings on RARE II and on this bill. It is very brief and we will make it a part of the record. We also have a letter from Judge Mechem indicating his feelings and ideas and we will make that a part of the record.

We have about nine letters from individuals. These letters, Senator Schmitt, basically are various complaints about where a line is versus some improvement or if a line was 500 feet this way or that, it would escape something that they have already built or a road that exists. To some extent some of them have been used in this bill and I thought we ought to just make them a part of the record as backup and for future reference as we proceed through.

So we won't itemize them one by one, but will make them part of the record.

[The letters referred to follow:]

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

(202) 637-5000

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EMMET ANDREWS
WILLIAM H. WYNN
JOHN DeCONCINI
DANIEL V. MARONEY

February 29, 1980

Dear Senator:

In view of your interest on this subject, I thought you would be interested in the enclosed AFL-CIO Executive Council statement.

Sincerely yours,

Ray Denison

Ray Denison, Director
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION

Enclosure

Statement by AFL-CIO Executive Council

on

Roadless Area Review and Study

Bal Harbour, Fla.
February 25, 1980

A fifteen year study by the U.S. government to determine the potential use of roadless areas in national forests was completed in 1979 and its recommendations referred to Congress for action.

During the study--the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II)--62 million acres of forest land were examined and inventoried. From this massive data the Carter Administration proposed that more than half of the acreage should be made available for multiple use, such as recreation, lumbering and mineral recovery; the remainder of the land should be set aside as roadless wilderness or be given further study.

The completion of RARE II was expected to end the long years of uncertainty as to the future use of these lands. Unfortunately, until Congress acts, the entire area and the affected communities will remain in economic limbo. Vital public and private decisions cannot be made while the nation denies itself the use of these lands for economic betterment and for vacation and recreation purposes.

Further frustration comes from the loss of much-needed employment opportunities in the forest industry where a potential exists for as many as 100,000 direct and indirect jobs in the development of vital mineral and energy resources.

The conclusion of the comprehensive RARE II study is that most of the lands in these roadless areas should be developed with multiple uses. The need now is for Congress to end nearly a generation of costly stalemate by enacting legislation that will swiftly and conclusively resolve the issues set forth in RARE II in a manner that establishes an equitable balance between environmental concerns and a land use policy of economic growth.

###

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103
POST OFFICE BOX 87

E. L. MECHEM
JUDGE

January 12, 1979

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senator
405 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The paper reports that Mr. Bergland is going to submit proposals for extensions of wilderness areas now existing.

I have no argument against the wilderness concept and voted for it when it passed the Senate. Senator Anderson was deeply involved in it and I didn't want to oppose him on it for one reason, it required Congress' approval where the Secretary had previously virtual carte blanche in creating wilderness areas and I thought there was a need for it. The Secretary still has too much authority in establishing primitive areas.

I appeared in Silver City when hearings were held on the Gila Wilderness in the early 50's and opposed it, primarily because of its extreme size and the fact that it deprived any number of people from any opportunity to even look at the area except by plane. It is impossible to look at except from two limited distant vantage points. I still hold the same view. Virtually the whole Middle Fork and West Fork of the Gila are limited to people who are healthy enough and have time enough to walk or ride horseback into the area. The East slope of the Mogollon is limited to the same group except for the area around Willow Creek. It seems to me that this is one that cries out for a limited use road or some other lifting of restrictions from the area of Gila Hot Springs to Snow Lake or Willow Creek for those who cannot travel into the area by foot or horseback.

I just hate to see such a vast area virtually shut off from even a view by people who can't get into it.

I have not expressed my opinion to the Forest Service, Interior or Agriculture.

I assume that you probably have positive views on the wilderness establishment and I certainly respect them.

I simply want to express one senior citizen's view who can take a week a year and afford to go into the wilderness, but who has a damaged knee preventing long walks (and sometimes short walks) and a lame back preventing horseback travel. I assume that there are those in much worse shape than I am who would like to just take a look at the area.

I am sending this letter to each member of the delegation, and I hope all of you have a good year.

Sincerely,

E. L. Mechem

January 7, 1980

To: New Mexico Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Harrison Schmitt
The Honorable Harold Runnels
The Honorable Lujan, Jr.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the RARE II process being proposed for legislation in the State of New Mexico.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you in person before the proposal is finalized.

We are enclosing a map for your information, with proposed boundaries marked in red.

We feel the wilderness problem can be worked out with all concerned it it could be designated in country that is wilderness criteria. Not flat country that has improvements on it that are vital to our cattle industry.

If the Apache Kid wilderness is designated, the wildlife will also be hurting as they benefit from the feed and salt put out by the ranchers. This public lands is supposed to be enjoyed by all the people, not just the few that want to backpack and hike. The handicapped cannot enjoy these areas or the very young.

The most critical area in our allotment is the pasture within 1/4 mile from our house. We run a plastic pipeline to this pasture from our well house. This pipeline has two water tubs on it which we have to maintain for the livelihood of our cattle. One of these tubs is in the proposed wilderness and is only about 1/2 mile from our house. This is in sections 29, 30, 31 & 32 township 8 south Rge 4 W. There is also two miles of fence to maintain.

We are proposing an extension to the pipeline with another tub. Which is drawn in on the map enclosed.

The proposed boundary of the Apache Kid wilderness borders a piece of land consisting of 160 acres of deeded land, leaving this land in the wilderness. We feel this land should not be included. This land has a permanent spring, namely Patty Vaughn, and is also good grass land and necessary to have access to this land to do supplemental feeding and salting.

This land is situated in Sections 27 & 28, township 8 S, Rge. 5 W.

We feel there is plenty of land designated as wilderness in New Mexico already. The state now has 795,000 acres designated and present legislation would add 378,906 acres out of the old primitive areas. RARE II proposals would bring the total to 1,601,000 acres or an increase of 201%!!

New Mexico Congressional Delegation
Page 2

We do think if this area has to be wilderness, the boundary can be moved, as indicated on our map enclosed, to higher country to protect the livelihood of those permittees involved.

We would also like to request that release language be included in the bill so that all areas not included in the wilderness legislation would be opened immediately to multiple use.

Again, we please request the opportunity to meet with you prior to your drafting of any wilderness legislation.

Sincerely,

Truman Hatley

Truman Hatley and Eddie Binns
Box 231
Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901

FRED HUFF
FARM & COUNTRY STORE
ROUTE 4, BOX 787
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001

May 12, 1980

Senator Pete Domenici
Room 2317, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Domenici:

I own a tract of land located in Sec.11, T.13S., R. 13W., N.M.P.M., Grant County, New Mexico[1/] that is included within the boundary of your New Mexico Rare II Wilderness Proposal.

I hope that including my private property in the Wilderness Proposal was a mistake or a mapping error. I am including a large scale map showing this[2/]. If this was not a mistake, I think it is very unfair that the other private property is not in the Wilderness Proposal and my private property is included in the Wilderness Proposal. The other private property owners use the same river bottom for motorized access to their private property, that I could also use for motorized access to my private property.

Therefore, I request that an adjustment be made in the proposed boundary, so that I will be allowed motorized access to my private property. I will give you my first and second choices as how I think this adjustment can be made.

1. Exhibit A.
2. Exhibit B.

First Choice:

On the enclosed map, Exhibit C, is my proposed boundary change. This choice would delete approximately 1800 acres from your Rare II Proposal, but it would allow me motorized access to my private property.

Second Choice:

On the enclosed map, Exhibit D, is a corridor type boundary change. This would delete approximately 600 acres from your Rare II Proposal, but with the crooked boundary it would be more difficult to set up and manage. This corridor would also allow me motorized access to my private property.

I am asking only to be allowed motorized access up the river bottom to my private property. There would be no federal funds involved, it would allow me the same motorized access rights as the other private property owners have in this area.

What other ways can I help you get your Rare II Proposal changed to allow me motorized access to my private property?

Thank you for your help and interest in my problem.

Sincerly,

Fred Huff

Fred Huff

STATUTORY WARRANTY DEED

DAWSON A. CAMPBELL and IDA F. CAMPBELL, his wife, for consideration paid, grant to FRED HUFF and BERTHA HUFF, his wife, the following described real estate situate in Grant County, New Mexico:

> A tract of land located in Sec.11, T.13 S., R.13 W., N.M.P.M., described as follows, hereinafter referred to as Tract 11:
>
> For a tie, commence at the N.¼ corner of Sec.11, T.13 S., R.13 W., N.M.P.M.; thence N.86°18' W. 655 ft.; thence S.3°42' W. 560 ft.; thence S.41°03' E. 1721.15 ft. to the point of beginning; thence S.86°18' E. 848 ft.; thence N.57°21' W. 622 ft.; thence S.48°57' W. 427.65 ft. to the point of beginning and containing3.7 acres more or less.
>
> A tract of land located in Sec.11, T.13 S., R.13 W., N.M.P.M., described as follows, hereinafter referred to as Tract 13:
>
> For a tie commence at the N.¼ corner of Sec.11, T.13 S., R.13 W., N.M.P.M.; thence N. 86°18' W. 655 ft.; thence S. 3°42' W. 560 ft.; thence S.41°03' E. 1721.15 ft. to the point of beginning; thence S.41°03' E. 678.85 ft.; thenceN.41°12' E. 607.78 ft.; thence N.86°18' W. 848 ft. to the point of beginning and containing 4.2 acres more or less.

together with all rights appurtenant thereto; with warranty covenants.

WITNESS our hands and seals this 15 day of January, 1968.

Dawson A. Campbell (SEAL)

Ida F. Campbell (SEAL)

STATE OF NEW MEXICO }
COUNTY OF GRANT } SS.

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 15th day of January, 1968, by Dawson A. Campbell and Ida F. Campbell, his wife.

E. Fern Stull

2350 South 1900 West
Ogden, UT 84401
March 27, 1980

The Honorable Peter Dominici
United States Senate
405 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dominici:

In the fall of 1979 I helped my friends, the Segurro family of Questa, New Mexico, straighten out claims they had in the old Spanish mine area on Pinabete Creek in Sections 3, 4, 9 & 10 of T29N, R13E, running up through Primero Creek. I spent my own money on engineering and dozer work which exposed good showings of gold and silver. We expected to go back this spring to follow up on this work.

I have been told by the Segurros that the area has been withdrawn by the Forest Service for a Wilderness Area. Can you help me? My investment is now over $15,000 and I can't afford to lose this. Besides I am sure there is a good orebody there and have arranged for more money to be spent to prove it up.

Sincerely,

Fred Lopez

Fred Lopez

MACK TAYLOR
BOX 2570
SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO 88061

[illegible] call from [illegible]

May 23, 1979

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
2317 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Attention: George Ramonas

Dear Mr. Ramonas:

This is to follow our brief phone conversation yesterday. Here's the matter in brief.

The RARE II Bill currently being formulated will automatically include all presently designated Primitive Areas in Wilderness classification, according to what I have been told by the Forest Service. The southeast corner of the Gila Primitive Area contains two favorable geologic structures that have considerably better-than-average likelihood of becoming producing mines. I am unwilling to incur the substantial cost of drilling and development if the prospect is going to be included in a Wilderness Area. Although the Wilderness Act of 1964 would permit mining to be carried out, the practical effect of the Act is that no petition to mine has yet succeeded, and the most persistent petitioners have been subjected to years of hearings and lawsuits, and in many cases, considerable personal vilification.

I have spoken to two mining companies about joint venturing the development work. In both cases, they felt the possibility of Wilderness classification precluded their getting involved in the structures.

The attached paper summarizes the problem as concisely as possible. Also included is a copy of a letter I asked the local Forest Service RARE II Coordinator, Gerry Engle, to prepare concerning the reasoning for including the Prospect Area in their Wilderness recommendation.

If you would like to contact the Forest Service concerning the problem, the person who has been most directly involved in the Prospect Area, and knows most about it is Ranger Brad Powell (505-534-2250) of the Mimbres office.

I greatly appreciate any help you can give toward changing the boundary line of the proposed Wilderness Area so that mining may continue in the region.

Respectfully,

Mack Taylor
Mack Taylor

MT:fth

Attach.

SUPERIOR OIL

Certified Mail

Senator Pete Domenici
2317 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

ATTEN: Mr. George Ramonas

Re: Proposed Legislation Dealing with Rare II Land Classification in New Mexico -- White Mtn. Wilderness and Associated Rare II Areas, Lincoln County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Ramonas:

I am writing in response to a recent article in the Albuquerque Journal dated April 17, 1980. It is my understanding from the article that public comments are being solicited until May 15, 1980 and it is for this reason I am submitting the following information regarding our activity in the White Mtn. Wilderness and the Rare II areas surrounding it.

Attached are two maps showing the White Mtn. Wilderness in yellow, the associated Rare II in blue, and our claim block covering both areas outlined in red.

In December 1977 Superior Oil became interested in the area as a result of significant silver and anomalous molybdenum assays from drilling performed by Mr. Frank Cermin. Mr. Cermin has been prospecting the area for the past 25 years and during the last 19 years had staked 13 unpatented mining claims. Mr. Cermin's drilling was done on these unpatented mining claims. From 1977 to the present, Superior has spent in excess of $500,000 in property acquisition (including patented ground within the Rare II area), geochemical and geophysical sampling, and core drilling of nearly 8,000 feet. At the present time we are drilling a molybdenum occurrence in the South Fork of the Rio Bonito and have been authorized additional footage if mineralization continues. We are currently evaluating the Great Western Mine, a former producer, for its gold and silver potential as well.

It should be pointed out that the Greenville patented mining claim (shown in pink on Map II) was worked in the early 1900's and the Great Western Mine (also shown on Map II) was worked as a producing gold mine until the 1940's.

The Superior Oil Company Minerals Division P.O. Box 12487, Tucson, AZ 85732
(602) 747-0770, Telex: 666 414

In the last 15 years there has been considerable exploration throughout the area. Major companies, including Amax, Bear Creek Mining, Noranda, and ourselves, have been active in more recent times. Because of the fluctuating gold and silver prices and a growing need for strategic alloy metals, as well as independence in mineral development, the area will remain important as a potential mineral source.

If you need additional information, or if I can be of further service, please call or write to the Tucson address.

Sincerely,

SUPERIOR OIL

Robley E. Berry

Robley E. Berry
Landman

REB/ym
Attachments

REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION OF AREA FROM WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, RATE II

Abstract

This is to request that an area of about 8 square miles be excluded from consideration for Wilderness designation in the RARE II bill currently being formulated. I believe two related geologic structures within the area have a high probability of containing ore bodies of industrial importance that could materially improve the local economy over the next 20-40 years. The area in question lies on the southeast corner of the Gila Primitive Area, adjacent to State Road 61, in generally unremarkable terrain. I do not believe its exclusion from Wilderness designation would materially detract from the overall wilderness chгracteristics of the region.

* * * * *

The mineralized area proposed for exclusion (Prospect Area) lies at the extreme southeast corner of the Gila Primitive Area, about 25 miles northeast of Silver City, in the southwest quarter of New Mexico (see Map 1). The terrain is that of a broad volcanic plateau, with a moderate density of conifers and scattered oak trees. It has been under continual grazing from the late 1800s to the present. In recent years grazing has been maintained at about 90% of Maximum Sustainable Yield.

The Gila Primitive Area was established in 1933 and, with some exceptions, has been managed as a Wilderness since then. In 1974, complying with the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Forest Service outlined that portion of the Gila Primitive Area that had Wilderness characteristics and recommended it for Wilderness designation (Map 2). The Prospect Area lies outside of the region then-judged to be of Wilderness quality, in an area (later named 'area P-3167') proposed for declassification.

Subsequent to the 1974 studies and recommendations conservation groups argued that any area without a specific reason for exclusion should be recommended for Wilderness. In response to this demand, when the current RARE II studies were completed, the Forest Service recommended the entire Gila Primitive Area for Wilderness designation, without exclusions. At the time of this recommendation the Forest Service was unaware of the mineral potential in the Prospect Area.

Map 3 shows in detail the Prospect Area with the two favorable geologic structures -- designated Prospect A and Prospect B -- outlined in red. The area proposed for exclusion is outlined in green, the Gila Primitive Area boundary in black, and the 1974 recommended Wilderness boundary in orange.

The favorable structures consist of two domal uplifts of paleozoic rocks within a relatively flat-lying sequence of volcanic tuffs and flows. About 16 miles to the south, along a geologic trend known as the Santa Rita-Hanover Axis, two similar adjacent geologic structures occur where the volcanic sequence has been removed by erosion. These structures contain, respectively, the Groundhog mine and the UV mine. The Groundhog mine operated for about 25 years during its major period of production as a medium-size lead and zinc mine. The UV mine has been operating for over 30 years, producing mainly zinc and copper. In recent years it has maintained a payroll of 450-500 workers.

I mapped and sampled the geologic structure within the Prospect Area in the early 1970s. Because of the low price and general over-supply of lead and zinc -- the commodities expected in Prospects A and B -- prevailing until recently, I did no further exploration work at that time, even though the sampling indicated the structures were indeed mineralized.

The world over-supply of these two metals gradually declined during the 1970s, and U.S. imports began increasing in late 1977. I staked the prospects in 1978 and filed the required 'preliminary plan of operation' with the Forest Service shortly thereafter. The Environmental Impact Analysis on the Prospect Area has been completed by the Forest Service, a conditional permit for exploration granted, and I expect to begin drilling and development of Prospect A this year, depending upon availability of adequate drilling equipment in the region. For Forest Service reference concerning the Prospect Area, please contact:

Chief Ranger Ray Bradsby
or
Ranger Brad Powell
U.S. Forest Service
General Delivery
Mimbres, New Mexico 88049
(505) 534-2250

As a coincidence, a geology student at the University of New Mexico mapped the area for his PhD. thesis in 1972-1973, ran across the two domed structures, and came to the same conclusion that I did regarding their probable mineralization. In June, 1978 he published a paper to this effect, which is included herewith.

I have drawn the proposed boundary line for the Prospect Area so that a single mill might be constructed to exploit both structures, rather than have to construct two entire identical mining camps. The area which I request to be excluded from Wilderness designation has no special topographic, biologic, or scenic qualities to distinguish it from the rest of the broad volcanic plateau of which it is a part. Nevertheless, it would make a nice addition to one of the largest Wilderness areas in the lower 48 States. Once any mining in the Prospect Area is completed it would be a good idea to consider redesignating the area and including it within the Gila Wilderness.

Mack Taylor, Geologist
Box 2570
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

May 28, 1980

Senator Pete Domenici
Senator Harrison Schmidt
Congressman Harold Runnels
Congressman Manuel Lujan
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I applaud your judgment and courage in seeking to reduce the area of national forest land which it is proposed be converted to wilderness.

I urge you to study the situation in the Capitan Mountains in the hope that you can achieve an elimination of all or a significant part of the Lincoln National Forest at the top of the Capitans which it is proposed under Rare II be made into a wilderness.

First, the entire Capitan Mountain should be eliminated from the proposed wilderness. You will note from the attached map that there is in fact a road of several miles length running along the top of the Capitan Mountain. This is an all-weather road kept open in the Winter because at the eastern end there are three radio relay stations supported by diesel engines, etc., which must be constantly refueled. One of these is operated by Lincoln County, one by Chaves County and one by Ranchmen's Radio. To draw a line around this existing road and then say the rest of the area is roadless is the most flagrant form of dishonesty, and certainly the government should not be guilty of that.

Furthermore, there are at least a dozen small roads (logging roads and mining roads) which branch off of the main road and occur all along the ridge of the Capitan Mountain. For verification of this fact, you might call Paul Gordon, the District Ranger headquartered in Ruidoso (505) 257-4095.

You might also be interested that the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association has strongly opposed the declaration of the Capitans as a wilderness area because of the substantial potential sources of energy, (I believe coal and gas) which they believe to be in the mountain.

Furthermore, there are numerous areas of private land within the proposed wilderness area the owners whereof will be unable to reach their property other than on foot or horseback if in fact it is declared a wilderness.

None of the Capitan Mountain should be made into a wilderness.

Second, if for some reason the whole mountain cannot be omitted, you might consider eliminating the area South of the summit as the higher areas on the South side are almost entirely rockslides which cannot be traversed either on foot or horseback except for two or three very narrow paths which were made years ago by the Forest Service to give firefighters access.

Third, if even that is impractical, I strongly urge that you eliminate from any proposed wilderness those two or three sections South of the road and West of the dark line which I have drawn on the attached map. As Mr. Gordon would point out, in several areas this is narrower than a quarter of a mile. It is largely rock shale and has no value for recreation. There are six roads, one a mining road and the other five logging roads. It also includes some private land. I implore you to eliminate this from the proposed wilderness.

Although I am not as well informed directly, I know that there is considerable support for the elimination of the so-called Tortolita area at the North end of the White Mountains involving about three and one-half sections. Mr. Gordon might be able to give you more information on that.

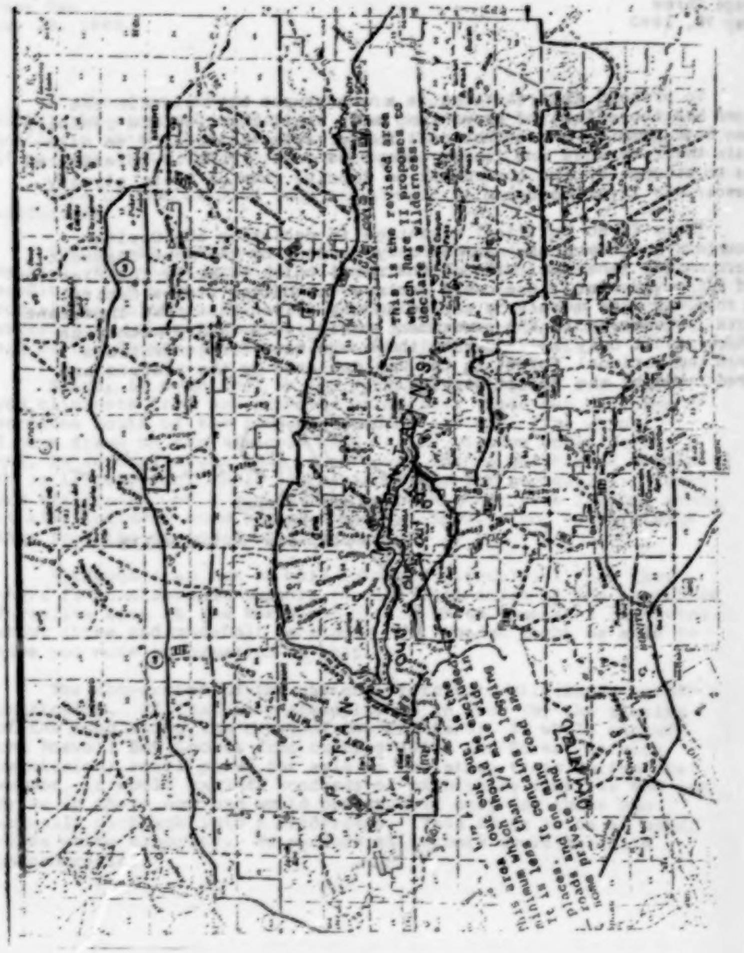
The conversion of the national forest to wilderness sounds intriguing. If that were accomplished in fact (by the closing of the road along the crest of the Capitans), it would exclude the Roswell Boy Scouts from cutting (with the Forest Service permission) small pines for sale as Christmas trees during that season, it would exclude hundreds of picnicking families who can drive up there now and would preserve it only for those who actually backpack into a wilderness. This tends to be an upper class white minority. To exclude all others would be quite undemocratic.

To pretend that the area is a wilderness but maintain the road has the effect of preventing many small inarticulate ranchers who have permits on the national forest from the ability to maintain their springs and fences except on foot. This is interpreted as an attempt by the government to deprive them of their already precarious livelihoods.

There is no political advantage in declaring the Capitan Mountain a wilderness. It can only be done by the most flagrant gerrymander (the exclusion of the road) which is below the dignity of our government. One could declare the United States Capitol a roadless area merely by excluding the drives into that important area. Please avoid the government taking such tawdry mechanics which result only in injury to those who have for generations used the national forest in the way declared by the statues and encouraged by the Forest Service.

Sincerely,

Gaylord Freeman
G Bar F Ranch
Lincoln, New Mexico 88338


This is the revised area which Rare II proposes to declare a wilderness.
This area (out out out) is the minimum which should be excluded. It is less than 1/4 mile wide in places. It contains 5 logging roads and one mine road and some private land.
CAPITAN
OUT
OUT
OUT

January 7, 1980

TO: New Mexico Congressional Delegation:
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Harrison Schmitt
The Honorable Harold Runnels
The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.

I understand that legislation is being drafted for introduction after January 1 to designate as wilderness some areas studied by the Forest Service and called the RARE II process.

I would like to request that I have an opportunity to discuss this legislation with you in person before the proposal is finalized.

I am enclosing a few comments on the present RARE II process.

My permit is in the Apache Kid area in the Cibola National Forest. On the San Mateo and the West Monticello Allotment, in the Cibola National Forest, under the present proposed RARE II, it takes in better than 90% of our allotment and controls all of the water except for 4 of our windmills. As it stands now, we are able to manage our allotment for correct distribution of the livestock as put forth by the Forest Service Management plan.

To the proposed boundary that we have drawn in, we feel that we can maintain and improve the present conditions of the land. If the present RARE II boundary is maintained the management practices will be so limited that we feel it will be a cut in animal unit months and therefore jepordize the livelihood of the ranch operation. The boundary we propose would enable us to maintain the present improvements and structures and develop 5 more water areas and several erosion control dams to develop watering structures and pipelines in the following areas:

1. Oak Springs (T9S - R6W) Section 10
   Presently - 1 mile of pipe and 2 drinkers
   Proposed - 3 miles of pipe and 6 drinkers

2. Whitetail Springs (T9S - R6W) Section 4 & 5 Corner
   Presently - 1 mile of pipe and 2 drinkers
   Proposed - 2 miles of pipe and 4 drinkers

3. Wildhorse Springs (T8S - R6W) Section 28
   Proposed - 4 miles of pipe and 8 drinkers

4. Villa Nueve Springs (T9S - R6W) Section 22
   Presently - 1 drinker
   Proposed - large storage tank, 1½ miles of pipe, 4 drinkers

5. Proposed well (T8S - R6W) Section 18
   drilled well to include windmill, 1 big storage tank, 6 miles of pipe, and 11 drinkers

6. Unnamed wash areas where stock tanks would be placed to control flooding will be established

We feel that the wilderness area should be in at least a 2 mile radius of deeded land, because of the ever increasing desire of wilderness land the deeded land will be surrounded by wilderness land and we will have no access to the private land. With this same feeling in mind, RARE II proposals will take the Forest away from the multitude of people and specifically designate it for the minority.

With the proposed RARE II, due to the accessibility of the area how is it humanly possible for the Forest Service to keep the people from using these areas as multiple use areas? With our modified proposed boundary the terrain creates a natural barrier.

It is interesting to note that, now, the opposition to any additional wilderness has grown to 8 to 1 against additional wilderness for the state as stated in Regional Supervisor Hassell's reply to Las Cruces Jeep Club President Fred Huff. On the specific area of the Gila, 95% of some 25,000 comments on RARE II were against any additional wilderness.

The RARE II process, as compared to the early 1970's studies is a farce, and I believe was used by the Forest Service to minimize impacts. RARE II areas were added around old primitive areas recommended for exclusion under the 1971 and 1974 studies. The sole purpose for this was to try to counter the original arguments for exclusion of those areas, with the reasoning that since the RARE II areas had potential for wilderness it would necessarily follow that you couldn't very well exclude any of the old primitive areas.

With RARE II, the primitive area proposals and the Department of Interior Studies, we could have one acre of every 30 in New Mexico classified as wilderness.

The recent report of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, criticized the Forest Service for reducing use and restricting access by livestock operators is welcome, but it remains to be seen whether the instructions will be heeded. According to the committee record, every congressional direction has been ignored for the past fifteen years.

In our opinion, we feel that none of the proposed area for wilderness meets the qualifications of the 1964 Wilderness Law as it all has been affected by man in one way or another by roads, trails, cabins, fire lookouts etc. even on the very top of the mountains.

Again, I would request that representatives of the livestock industry be allowed to meet with you prior to your drafting any wilderness legislation.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Coil

Walter J. Coil
7 4 Ranch Partnership
P.O. Box 141
Monticello, New Mexico 87939

January 7, 1980

To: New Mexico Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Harrison Schmitt
The Honorable Harold Runnels
The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.

My name is George Tigner and I am in partnership with Tigner Brothers Ranch.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed Apache Kid Wilderness area in the Cibola National Forest, which includes a forest permit of approximately 13,000 acres.

In the RARE II process, the original proposal made by the Forest Service included only the part of this ranch which was high, wilderness type country and we didn't feel that going into wilderness status would be particularly harmful to our operation, therefore, we made no formal comment.

However, the proposal which the Forest Service has sent to Congress has lots of additional acreage added, which we had no opportunity to comment on, and this added acreage will have severe adverse affect on our ranching operation.

There is a "parrots beak" looking area lying in sections 21, 15 & 14, Twp 7 S Rge 5 W, which has in it approximately 1 mile of pipeline, two drinking tubs, a pump, and most serious of all would cut a road which provides access to a tract of deeded land. This is a constructed road which we use to maintain this pump and pipeline system and anything else which we might need to do on this deeded land in the future.

This road doesn't show on the map, but it is absolutely vital to the proper management of a large area of our allotment.

I seriously doubt that the Forest Service can enforce the closure of the roads in this area, because in the case of the two roads they have closed so far on our ranch, though posted with a big "NO VEHICLES BEYOND THIS POINT" sign, during the past hunting season so many hunters drove around the signs and used the roads out to the end that they made the roads dusty.

I don't think it is good business, or good for ones country to make rules you can't enforce. It gets people used to ignoring the law and this is what happens when the government tries to make a wilderness out of a developed area or an area which does not have wilderness criteria!

I would like to request that I have an opportunity to discuss this legislation with you in person before the proposal is finalized.

I would also request that release language be included in the bill so that all areas not included in the wilderness legislation would be immediately opened to multiple use.

Sincerely,

George Tigner
Box 6
Socorro, NM 87801

January 7, 1980

To: New Mexico Congressional Delegation:
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Harrison Schmitt
The Honorable Harold Runnels
The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.

I understand that legislation is being drafted for introduction after January 1 to designate as wilderness some areas studied by the Forest Service and called the RARE II process.

I would like to request that I have an opportunity to discuss this legislation with you in person before the proposal is finalized.

In regards to the Apache Kid Wilderness Area, of which I am a permittee. One portion of this proposed wilderness area doesn't fit the criteria as we understand it to be. (The Criteria being that there are no constructed roads in the area already.)

In East Red Canyon there is a corridor to allow for access to the wilderness area from an established constructed road, which has been in use for more than two generations as access to the forest. However, the proposed corridor doesn't extend to the end of the road, which goes approximately 2½ miles further to Turkey Springs. Hunters and hikers use this road to give them access to country on both sides of East Red Canyon, and we use it in our ranch operation because we pack salt and supplimental feed by horse out of the canyon to rather distant areas. The failure to extend this corridor will be inconvenient and expensive to us and will hamper our ability to effectively manage the use of the land by livestock; but I am sure that the hunters will be outraged and will not respect the closure of this road anyway.

It isn't wilderness because it has a constructed and maintained road to Turkey Springs. (The road is shown on the map as an unimproved road, but it has been an improved road since the 1940's.) It will be impossible to effectively keep vehicles out because it gives natural access to the surrounding area. And leaving the corridor open would help more people to use and enjoy the wilderness.

The people who advocate wilderness areas are a small minority, though well organized and articulate. I understand that these people don't really want these areas to be used by the public; and in the case of this road, they would want it closed to make access to the wilderness more difficult. It may very well be that there should be some areas in the country that go through the years untouched and unaffected by people. But this is not one of those areas because it has heavy recreational use now and has had for many years.

The majority of the people who have used this road to get to the depth of the forest do not keep up with what is going on like the minority of people who are educated and motivated and sufficiently wealthy to spend the necessary time and effort to keep up with things.

We are aware, because it affects our ability to make a living and we made it our business to find out ahead of time what might be done here.

But I think this great number of people will be caught by surprise by the closure of this canyon. And the first time they find out it is closed will be when they come from the eastern side of the state, or wherever, to hunt where they have always hunted. I think that these people will be outraged by the unfairness of this closure and will comply only if forced to. Enforcement of the closure of this canyon will be next to impossible because of the nature of the terrain.

We would like to comment further about Township 6S - Range 5W & 6W, Sections 25, 36, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30 31, 32, 33 and parts of 34. If this area goes into wilderness, it would substantially hurt our operation. This area is outlined in red on the map which we have enclosed. This area has a pipeline system consisting of: A propane powered booster pump at Drift fence well (in Red Canyon marked a circle on the map) which boosts water out of East Red Canyon some 500 foot altitude north about 2¼ miles; and stores it in a 30' x 5' (heavy steel & concrete) storage tank. From there pipelines go to 6 waterings for livestock & game.

This watering system was built about 12 years ago as a cooperative cost share project with us and the Forest Service & this set of livestock watering are absolutely vital to our operation, and when the time comes to replace this pipe, we could do nothing but abandon it, if it is wilderness status.

We did not even get a chance to comment on this area to the Forest Service in the RARE II process because it was added by "public comment" which in itself is a curiosity, since a large majority of the public, who commented, were against any of the Apache Kid Wilderness Area. They then not only put into Wilderness status that which a large majority were against, but added a good bit to it because the public demanded that it be added.

You are our only hope in preventing this unfair action because the Forest Service does not pay any attention to anyone, except those few who are in favor of the position of those particular bureauocrats favor.

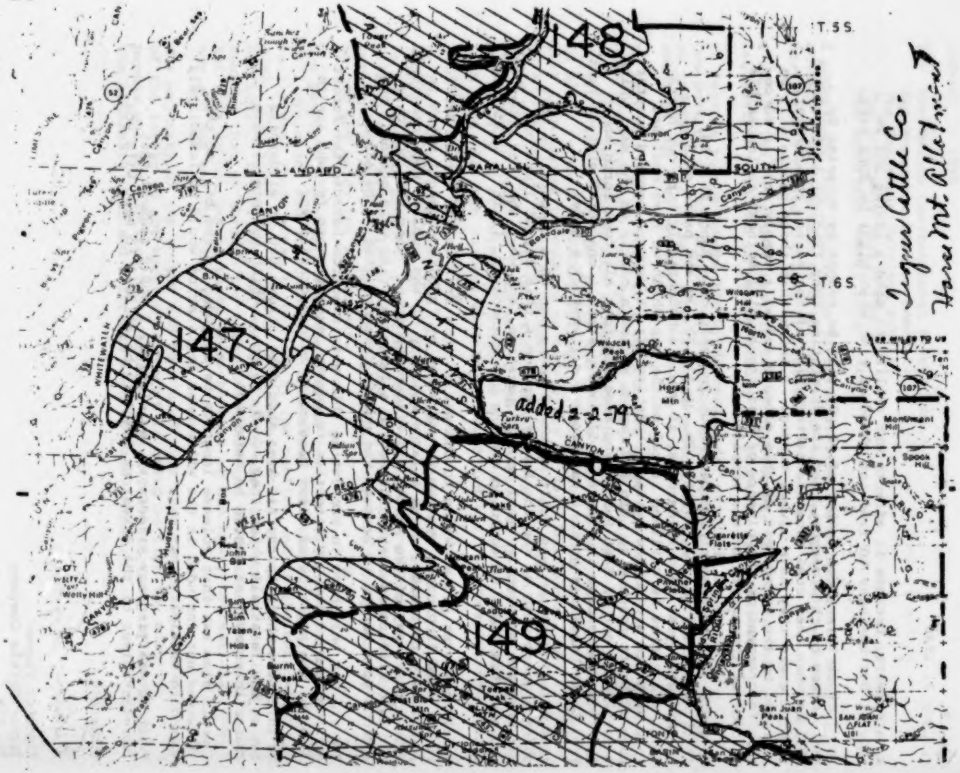
We think the whole Apache Kid Area should be thrown out of wilderness, but at the least all which they added, to that, which we were given a chance to comment on should be scrapped!

I would also ask that release language be included in the bill so that all areas not included in the wilderness legislation would be immediately opened to multiple use.

Prior to drafting any wilderness legislation, I would request that representatives of the livestock industry be allowed to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Fletcher Tigner
Tigner Cattle Company
Box 628
Magdalena, New Mexico 87825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SOUTH
PARALLEL
STANDARD
CANYON
WHITEWATER
Horse Mtn
Wildcat Peak
Wildcat Hill
Monument Hill
Spook Hill
Cigarette Flats
Turkey Spr
Wolly Hill
Yellow Hills
Burnt Peaks
San Juan Peak
SAN JUAN FLAT
107
62

Ingram Cattle Co.
Horse Mt. Allotment

January 7, 1980

To: New Mexico Congressional Delegation:
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Harrison Schmitt
The Honorable Harold Runnels
The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.

I understand that legislation is being drafted for introduction after January 1 to designate as wilderness some areas studied by the Forest Service and called the RARE II process.

I would like to request that I have an opportunity to discuss this legislation with you in person before the proposal is finalized.

I am enclosing a few comments on the present RARE II process.

My permit is in the Apache Kid area in the Cibola National Forest. If this area is designated as wilderness I could possibly lose my year-round permit for 400 head which is my livelihood.

There is around 30 thousand acres in my allotment and a large percent of this is being considered for wilderness.

There are four wells, several miles of pipeline, numerous roads and a graded road all along the edge of the boundary. There is private land on the forest. One of the wells is on private land and one of the springs is on private land. This I don't believe constitutes wilderness.

The Wasp Well, which is circled on the map, is being proposed in the present RARE II process. This well is approximately 20 years old and has operated as a watering place for livestock for many many years. This well also waters about 6000 acres of pasture land. If this well is designated as wilderness, this would eliminate access to the well and maintenance would be impossible unless I invested in a pack mule.

There are also a lot of fences that could not be maintained if this area is designated as wilderness, which includes 6 different allotments.

It would also be very difficult to set out salt for the cattle, maintain pipelines, fences, windmills , etc., without motorized vehicles. This again, would mean extra expenses as far as investing in pack mules, extra labor, etc.

New Mexico's RARE II process also will affect the miners, trappers, wood haulers, and anyone that is not able to walk into the area. The elderly, the very young, the handicapped.

With the energy crisis as it is today, we need to leave the forest lands open to multiple use, so this land can be used to further explore all resources available.

I am opposed to an increase of wilderness in New Mexico and I am enclosing a map which shows the boundaries I would like to see designated if indeed this area has to be wilderness. The Wasp well, which was talked about earlier, is circled on the map.

It is interesting to note that, now, the opposition to any additional wilderness has grown to 8 to 1 against additional wilderness for the state as stated in Regional Supervisor Hassell's reply to Las Cruces Jeep Club President Fred Huff. On the specific area of the Gila Wilderness, 95% of some 25,000 comments on RARE II were against any additional wilderness. Since the Apache Kid area is very close to the Gila, I believe this is significant.

The RARE II process, as compared to the early 1970's studies is a farce, and I believe was used by the Forest Service to minimize impacts. RARE II areas were added around old primitive areas recommended for exclusion under the 1971 and 1974 studies. The sole purpose for this was to try to counter the original arguments for exclusion of those areas , with the reasoning that since the RARE II areas had potential for wilderness it would necessarily follow that you couldn't very well exclude any of the old primitive areas.

With RARE II, the primitive area proposals and the Department of Interior studies, we could have one acre of every 30 in New Mexico classified as wilderness!

I would also request that release language be included in the bill so that all areas not included in the wilderness legislation would be immediately opened to multiple use.

Again, I please request the opportunity to meet with you prior to your drafting of any wilderness legislation.

Sincerely,

Warren Hutcherson

Warren Hutcherson
Box 66
Magdalena, NM 87825

Senator **Domenici**. I don't believe we have any additional documents that we want to make a part of the record. Did everybody get theirs made a part?

Were there any maps or anything else that you did not ask us to put in?

That has been clarified.

What about the one that you used to talk about the mineralized bill?

Mr. **Himebaugh**. We asked that be put in.

Senator **Domenici**. We will do that and make it part of the file. Did you call it something? Map 1? Or not?

It has a map 1 on it.

Mr. **Himebaugh**. Yes. It was in my testimony and we identified it as map 1.

Senator **Domenici**. We will make it a part of the record in that manner.

Senator Schmitt.

Senator **Schmitt**. It was pointed out to me with respect to the discussion I had with Mr. Kulosa on the protection of wilderness lands from a variety of natural dangers, section 4 of the act, paragraph B-1 on page 113 contains the following special provision:

In addition, such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.

It sounds like they have the authority, but your testimony indicates that they have not deemed it desirable to exercise it; is that correct?

Mr. **Kulosa**. That is correct, Senator. I think that I would like to know of any areas where there was any salvage of timber within a wilderness area. I am not aware of any.

Senator **Schmitt**. I think this is maybe one area where you and the Wilderness Society and others would agree that there could be more protection of wildernesses.

Mr. **Kulosa**. The intent of that was to keep insect epidemics from spreading into areas outside of the wilderness, but I am not aware of that ever having been exercised.

Senator **Schmitt**. You say that is the intent, is that based on legislative history that you are aware of?

Mr. **Kulosa**. The explanation given to me was that wilderness would not constitute a danger to anything outside of wilderness.

Senator **Schmitt**. So they can destroy themselves, but nothing outside?

Mr. **Kulosa**. Right.

Senator **Schmitt**. Obviously, later we will be discussing some of these other issues, Mr. Chairman. I want to be sure that this record reminded that there is authority, how it is being exercised and what regulations and what congressional intent seems to be somewhat in doubt.

Senator **Domenici**. Thank you, Senator Schmitt.

Let me see if I could just close this hearing with a couple of comments and see if you would agree with this, Senator Schmitt.

First, I think it is obvious that we have to work with various people and the staff on the release language in light of some of the positions that were taken here today in terms of clarifying language and other things that have occurred.

I think we ought to—and, of course, we have to, work with the other members of the delegation. But I think there is some serious misunderstanding in terms of some of the things we have proposed.

On the other hand, there is some serious disagreement and if we can't get rid of all the disagreements, we can certainly try to clarify them so there aren't larger misunderstandings than there ought to be.

Second, it seems that as we proceed through the report, if we do get to marking up the bill, some of the reasons that areas were not included would be summarized.

I personally could not right now sit down and say what it was that all of us had in mind as we proceeded through analyzing. I think other than a few arbitrary lines that for the most part there was some rationale with reference to the noninclusion.

Senator SCHMITT. I agree that there were very few arbitrary lines and in every case there was a good rationale for what we did.

Whether that rationale would hold up or not——

Senator DOMENICI. Those who disagree would obviously say it was not very sound. We owe it to a number of people who work very hard from both sides, people testifying. Those who want less wilderness should have an answer as to why we put some in.

Those who want more, should be given a rationale as to why we did not include it. We assume that will be in the process of writing the report. Even though you are not on the committee, I would hope that you would participate in that and in some way as part of the delegation indicate after we accomplished that in the committee your views on that so we would be working on it together.

Senator SCHMITT. There is not question. I think you and the other members of the delegation are to be complimented on having worked together to this point very well and I will continue to participate fully and completely in the process.

The report I think should be fairly specific as to the inclusion or noninclusion of areas based on a justifiable rationale. If we can't write it down on paper, then we probably made a mistake.

Senator DOMENICI. And with reference to the grazing situation, I understand the difficulty of including any kind of clarification in a wilderness bill of this type. But since most of the witnesses had testified in behalf of additional wilderness area, if there is any room for discussing that as a group, we will make available the suggested language that Mr. Lee submitted.

There was some prepared by staff. To the extent that you might want to look at that in an effort to use this legislative process that is before us as some kind of way to resolve the grazing difficulties, it would be very helpful. I am not in any way suggesting that anybody has to, but I think there is general consensus that we need to get it done.

Can you rely on guidelines or do something beyond that? I urge Dave and others to take a look at that in the next few weeks and contact the staff.

There is another draft of that to make available for comparisons in terms of the grazing problem. I have nothing further other than to thank you all very much for all the trouble you have gone through in coming here and the patience that you had in waiting with us through this afternoon.

Are there any other comments that any of you would want to make?

Senator Schmitt, did you have anything further?

Senator **Schmitt**. No. Thank you.

Senator **Domenici**. As I understand it, this particular hearing is completed, but for us leaving the record open for 2 weeks for additions and those will be received in the normal manner.

[Whereupon, at 5:55 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

[illegible] other members of the delegation that I would think is more [illegible]

On the other hand, there is [illegible]

[illegible] ought to [illegible]

Senator [illegible] on the bill, some of the [illegible]

I personally would not [illegible] that all of us had [illegible]

Senator Dworshak. I agree that there were very few [illegible]

Senator Dworshak. [illegible]

[illegible]

Senator Dworshak. There is one question. I think [illegible]

The report I think should be [illegible]

Senator [illegible]

There has been [illegible]

[illegible]

There is [illegible]

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
1619 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036

STATEMENT OF
NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

This Statement is submitted on behalf of the National Forest Products Association (NFPA) on S.2583, a bill to designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of New Mexico for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, the subject of hearings by your Subcommittee on May 29, 1980.

NFPA is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and is a federation of twenty-nine regional, product and species associations, as well as fifteen direct member companies. We represent the growers, manufacturers, and wholesale distributors of timber and solid wood products throughout the United States.

The bill you are considering, S.2583 relates to recommendations of the Secretary of Agriculture under the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation program. The impacts of this legislation on the forest industry in New Mexico were presented to you by the Federal Timber Purchasers Association.

We support the views of this group and this statement will stress our views on the RARE II program in general, and on its effect on national needs for timber and related resources.

RARE II Must be Resolved

We would like to stress at the outset how urgent it is that the entire RARE II issue be resolved. Not all groups will agree over the exact allocation of specific areas or acres, but all in our industry are united in the view that the time for resolution of the RARE II process has arrived. We commend you for moving forward on RARE II. The pending legislation, has the further advantage of dealing with more than just those areas found to be suitable for Wilderness classification. We believe that it is essential as S.2583 would provide for the availability of the non-Wilderness lands to be assured for multiple-use, resource management and production.

If Congress acts on the RARE II proposals without setting forth permanent safeguards for those areas not selected for Wilderness (or further study) it will have reduced the RARE II process into a legislative vehicle for creating the largest Wilderness set-aside in the history of this nation. We cannot support such a result.

Millions of acres of National Forest commercial timber lands have been "frozen" for almost a decade in RARE I and RARE II studies. During this time timber supply in the West and parts of the East has become more and more critical. Many mills dependent on national forest timber had hoped RARE II would eliminate the timber supply uncertainty they have faced since 1970. Yet, the RARE II recommendations for Wilderness additions mean both short and long-term reductions in timber supply -- with consequent impacts locally, regionally, and nationally -- and the uncertainties have still not been removed.

Our view is that timber supply from the National Forests must increase, not decrease, in both the short and long term. Housing demand in the decade of the 1980's is projected to average 2.6 million conventional and mobile home units annually -- an increase of nearly 20 percent over the annual average from 1970 to 1978. Reductions in timber supply mean problems for housing, inflation, balance of payments, employment, and the economic base of hundreds of counties and communities.

U.S. Wood production shortfalls will require increased reliance on imports of softwood lumber. As noted previously, the United States is a net importer of wood and wood fiber products. Increased lumber imports only aggravate U.S. problems with trade deficits and balance of payments. The results of the RARE II recommendations will be to aggravate this already unsatisfactory situation.

Timber Supply is Crucial

Because RARE II decisions could have a major impact on national forest timber supplies, it is important to review the overall national timber supply picture. The 1975 RPA Assessment of demand for softwood sawtimber projected substantial rises in the demand for lumber and plywood products in virtually all major uses. It projected that between the years 1970 and 2000 the demand for lumber would rise by 75 percent and the demand for plywood by 56 percent. Furthermore, by the year 2020 the total demand for all wood and wood fiber products is expected to double.

Recent projections made by the Forest Service as a part of the 1980 RPA update generally confirm the 1975 estimates. Of particular concern is a dramatic increase in demand for wood products in the next 15-20 years. This is due largely to the home building needed to house a surge of America's population reaching the age of family formation in this period.

RARE II Recommendations and Timber Supply

If the Department of Agriculture's RARE II Wilderness recommendations are followed, there will be a shortfall in meeting national timber needs. The Forest Service indicated that virtually all of the commercial forest land involved in the RARE II inventory is needed to meet these needs. So, if a portion of the timber lands involved in the 11 million acres of "further planning" areas is allocated to Wilderness, the potential timber gap will widen even further.

Erosion of Timber Land Base

Another very important factor which will make it difficult for the Forest Service to meet timber supply goals is the dramatic erosion of the timber land base since the 1975 RPA Program was developed. The cause for this is twofold. First, since 1975 Congress has added significant additional acreage from the National Forest System to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

A second and even more significant reason for timber land base erosion is a whole series of land use decisions made by national forest planners, which have removed commercial forest lands from production or have seriously limited the degree of production from such lands. Recent studies have brought the total effect of these decisions to light, and it is unlikely that they can be corrected until the Forest Service completes its current land use planning cycle in 1983.

Clean Air Act Implications

We suggest that your Committee consider another potential impact of RARE II Wilderness allocations. This concern relates to the implications of Wilderness designation relating to the provisions of the Clean Air Act. That act designated all then existing Wilderness areas, and units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System, when designated by the Secretary of the Interior, as Class I areas for the purpose of air quality maintenance. The Act also provided that areas subsequently designated as Wilderness would be Class II, except where the Governor of the state classified them as Class I.

Should the bulk of RARE I. areas designated as Wilderness ultimately be classified as Class I areas, these actions could preclude construction of new or modified sources of air emissions within 50-100 miles of Class I areas. Huge areas of the country would be unavailable for production of resources and needed goods and services. Careful attention must be given to these potential impacts, and appropriate action taken to assure that undesirable long-term effects will not result.

Protection for Non-Wilderness Lands

In conclusion, we must reemphasize the need to avert chaotic timber supply problems in the future. The national forest lands allocated to non-Wilderness must be returned promptly to ther resources; and these uses must be protected.

The April 16, 1979 decision of the President and the Secretary of Agriculture releasing certain lands was an important first step. Yet, experience shows that a substantial portion of this acreage could well become the subject of interminable administrative or judicial actions which would halt management activities, especially timber production and harvesting. The State of California V. Bergland litigation (recently filed in the Eastern District of California) illustrates this point. Until this case is finally resolved, the sale of hundreds of million board feet of timber is in limbo, as well as the jobs and economic stability which this timber productivity yields.

For these reasons, and to assure a necessary and desired stability in the National Forest timber land base, the forest products industry strongly supports the concept of specific Congressional action to protect the non-Wilderness lands. Legislation is needed to assure that those lands released will remain fully available for resource and productive uses other than Wilderness.

The bill you are presently considering does address this issue. We look forward to working with your Committee and other committees of Congress to assure that Congressional action achieves the needed degree of protection of these lands. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this Statement.

* * * *

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

JOSEPH P. TEASDALE
GOVERNOR

June 5, 1980

The Honorable Dale Bumpers
United States Senate
3229 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bumpers:

I am informed that you have held hearings this past May 29 on a bill, S. 1685, introduced jointly by both Missouri Senators Tom Eagleton and Jack Danforth. The bill would designate four areas in Missouri's Mark Twain National Forest as units of the National Wilderness Reservation System. I would like to offer the following comments on this bill for your official hearing record.

Members of my staff have reviewed these proposals for several years. Our review indicates that each of the four areas, Bell Mountain, Rockpile Mountain, Devil's Backbone, and Piney Creek, has outstanding wilderness qualities, and each is a superb remnant example of Missouri's original Ozark landscape. At the same time, competing economic values of the areas appear to be minimal.

We have followed these areas closely through the RARE II process conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and concurred in their recommendation that these areas be designated as wilderness.

In conclusion, we offer our strong support for these areas and urge your subcommittee to act quickly and favorably on S. 1685. We also would like to thank Senators Eagleton and Danforth for their introduction and support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Teasdale
GOVERNOR

cc: The Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton
The Honorable John C. Danforth

New Mexico
WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF

CORRY McDONALD

for the record of the

SENATE PARKS, RECREATION, AND

RENEWABLE RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

on

S.2583

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS LEGISTATION:1980

May 29, 1980

COMMENTS ON THE NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ACT OF 1980 DRAFT

The draft bill as it was released to the public by the New Mexico Congressional Delegation in mid-April 1980 is not recommended for enactment in its present form. It contains unsatisfactory release language and does not adequately culminate the RARE II process initiated in 1977 by the U. S. Forest Service.

Some general comments must precede our specific commentary. The Wilderness Act of 1964 anticipated the careful study and review of all of our roadless areas and indicated that candidate wilderness areas be identified for possible enactment as National Wilderness by the Congress of the United States. The ten-year period allocated proved to be insufficient time for the USFS to do the job. The RARE I recommendations and conclusions generally showed that the Forest Service was not able to concentrate enough people and effort to close the process.

Congress further instructed the public land agencies in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the National Forest Management Act of 1976. An adjusted RARE II process resulted in 1977, but did little to alleviate an overloaded agency on a monumental task. The recommendations coming out of RARE II did not agree with the conclusions of our conservation community, but we understand the pressures and constraints working on them. Forest Service personnel have been most open and cooperative through most of the process. Our New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee has been through a dozen years of rotation of agency personnel on each of our study areas.

We have never liked the necessity of dealing with multiple enactments because we have limited resources to bring together all of the current information pertinent to the entire public land legislative package. We think that the original intent of the Wilderness Act that each area be individually studied, analyzed, and evaluated is the best way to go. However, when we have had to describe a whole package, we call it Alternative W, our outer limit.

The proposed bill contains the results of the many frenetic earlier studies, proposals, and agency inputs, as well as some citizen input, and was influenced by a kaleidoscope of other events and factors such as the energy resources, the Sagebrush Rebellion and the Alaskan public land issues, to name but a few. Some unilateral decisions and/or actions taken by the Administration have tended to erode the Congressional responsibilities in wilderness protection matters. Those seemingly outside factors have generated the release language in our proposed bill.

So, in the process of attempting to head off a RARE III or subsequent administration wilderness enactment series, the release language tends to block all future wilderness enactment. We want to retain the continuation of the legal process whereby we can always propose specific wilderness enactment without any ten-year or other moratoriums. Consequently, if you want our agreement, you are urged to clarify the bill's language to leave open the citizen channel to the Congress.

The other aspect of the release language which gives us some pause is that feature which turns loose to multiple-abuse the roadless areas not enacted. Many of those areas, including those labeled as Further Planning, are in that situation because the Forest Service did not have enough final data on them to make a well-measured decision. So, we are concerned that with a single stroke of the pen, all of the defacto wilderness we have left will be soon disqualified forever; and that this part of New Mexico which is so unique will retain your signatures as the developers instead of the philanthropists you have been to date.

If you will back off the release language, we will help you arrive at a non-wilderness list of areas to release.

Assuming that some mutually acceptable compromise can be reached on the aforegoing leglislative channel and release language problems, we have a number of comments to make on the remainder of the proposed bill.

We have been unable to determine specific reasons for your selections of the areas contained in the proposed bill. Our comments must therefore lack the objectivity which they would otherwise have. We are forced to make a number of assumptions and hope that the information, questions and comments will lead to an amicable adjustment.

Later Peak Wilderness

The imaginative west boundary proposed must be based on misinterpretation of the Seguna letter pertaining to a two-hundred foot (permitted) extension of a road to the old Archer Mine. The Forest Service proposed wilderness boundary is a more accurate representation of the steep western escarpment. Our boundary is even better as a starting point. It shows an inholding for acquisition.

Your use of the Lake Fork Creek as an eastern boundary is most surprising. It must be based upon some kind of a claim made by the Federal Timber Purchasers' Association to the effect that there is merchantable timber in the area which has been excluded. The District Ranger has twice denied such an allegation. He is a highly professional forrester who is also anxious to help his district produce its timber sale quotas. The timber cruiser hired by the Purchasers' Association was known only to have visited the District Office but not to have made any on-site survey. The Forest Service will take our Delegation on request into or over the area in a helicopter.

The USGS geologist on the area for the last three years has not been able to locate any promising mineralization in the excluded area.

The two-hundred foot setback along Cabresto Creek is not realistic in that it is half-way up the canyon walls on rock faces in many places. We suggest a nominal road offset to allow the Forest Service to establish the most practical legal boundary. Here again, we recommend the use of our boundary pending final legal boundary mapping, marking and otherwise establishing by the Forest Service.

Wheeler Peak Additions

We know of a number of timber interests, including the Taos Indians, who would all like to log-off the mature timber in the Ditch Cabin-Sawmill Park addition. That is the only merchantable timber in the publicly owned part of the Wheeler Peak region. It is unfortunate that we cannot demonstrate the true worth of the living forest for all of its multiple benefits in that specific location in competition with the removal costs and environmental damage to the watershed. The present beauty of Sawmill Peak (which has never seen a sawmill) took over two-hundred years to regenerate after the last big fire. We concede the area's omission reluctantly.

Some of us believe that if ski runs were cut down the slopes east of the Middle Fork Lake Road, they would become avalanche chutes.

The south boundary of the South Fork Addition is now no longer indefinite. It was resurveyed in 1977.

Columbine/Hondo Area

The relegation of this entire area to non-wilderness uses is short sighted and will be questioned in historical retrospect.

Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Additions

The omission of the North McKittrick Canyon conjures several strange scenarios. The area is rugged and roadless. Access to motorized vehicles is blocked at the bottom by the wilderness in Guadalupe Mountain National Park. At the northwest end there is a two-thousand foot headwall on BLM land which drops off into Dog Canyon and into Devil's Den Canyon. The cost of a road into upper North McKittrick would be monumental.

A few old propect tunnels remain from non-producing attempts made in the 1800's. Service by tramway from Camp Wilderness Ridge above to the east might be feasible if a major metals strike were made in the canyon confines. It would not matter whether the area is wilderness or not, when and if such a strike were made.

The only reason that we and the District Ranger could find plausible was that because the adjacent BLM WSAs (Wilderness Study Areas) were deferred until it was known how this Forest Service portion of a Unified Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness enactment would work out, someone thought of leaving out this domino. If this is a fact, it tends to reduce a unified wilderness to a disjointed and hard to manage public property. We urge its restoration.

We have made the case for years for closing the unconstructed jeep trail on the ridge just east of Dark Canyon Lookout to reduce the wild cave vandalism in the extensive underground wilderness. We have made the case for an above and below ground wilderness that is unique in the world. Even the 21,000 acre RARE II proposal only covers less than half of the underground wilderness which extends far north of the ridge trail. Admittedly, some of the surface wilderness above that northern cave complex is not as striking as the southern escarpment, but without the protection of wilderness enactment of the surface above the northern caves, they will be subjected to continued vandalism accompanying motorized access. If you will not endorse wilderness extension northward, help us obtain ORV closure.

Apache Kid Wilderness

We were really taken aback by the total omission of the Apache Kid Wilderness from the bill. We have a copy of the the Tigner Cattle Company letter of April 9, 1979 and appreciate the manager's position. The RARE II recommendation of 133,000 acres was made by the Forest Service with the use of maps that did not contain a network of trespass roads which have grown in the northeast quadrant of the San Mateo Mountains over the last ten years. Some of the roads which were permitted were entered on the control maps of the district, then subsequently grew more extensive as the permitted uses proliferated.

Our 99,000 acre wilderness proposal has studiously left out the roaded areas, whether they be permitted or trespass.

We avoided some canyon bottoms on the northwest quadrant of the mountains where some timber stringers exist. The original RARE II boundary locations cut off road heads needlessly. It was such considerations that reduced our Wilderners Study Committee recommendation to 99,000 acres.

Our studies show that the oil and gas potential is low. The old gold and silver mining activity on the southeast quadrant (at and near the Pankey Mine) indicates marginal success in the past. It may be possible that a change of scale and technology could improve future success of mining in that part of the mountain. In any event, our map does not include that roaded area.

Some of the steep canyons on the west side show some chunks of limestone float with veinlets of cuprite. The theory that the Green Cananea-Bisbee rift might extend northeastward through the Black Range and San Mateos is given little credence by surface showings.

The suspicion that uranium could occur in vein deposits in the Apache Kid massif is possibly credible. The value of such vein deposits throughout the State as compared to the peneconcordant deposits should not attract any large company. The USGS does not seem to be very impressed by the prospects.

We are happy that our delegation is very concerned and aware of our national need for critical and economic minerals. Hopefully, our state will be able to continue to yield more than its share of those treasures. We are further reassured by Section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act which states: "The Secretary of the Interior (whose department includes the Bureau of Mines and the USGS) is directed to develop and conduct, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, recurring surveys by the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey to determine the mineral values present in the national forest wilderness areas, and to make the results available and submit them to the President and Congress."

In conclusion, we do not see sufficient conflicting resource causes to justify withholding the Apache Kid Wilderness from enactment. We therefore urge enactment of our proposed area in contrast to the RARE II area on the basis of minimum interference with currently permitted uses.

New Mexico

WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

9601 Haines Avenue NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
May 19, 1980

Pat I. Heth, Director
NM Congressional Delegation
Project Office
405 E. Senate Courts
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Pat I. Heth:

Regarding S-2583.

We in New Mexico are grateful for your past help in getting Wilderness Classification and protection for the Sandia and Manzano Mountains, Bandelier National Monument, Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks along with Chama Canyon. These are all very worthy areas and we Thank You.

New Mexico has also been abundantly blessed with numerous roadless areas. Many are quite worthy for their natural astetic values and would make outstanding Wildernesses. By surrounding these areas with picnic areas, campgrounds and scenic drives, New Mexico would be one of the most outstanding outdoor recreation States of the Nation. We also have a mild year round climate for enjoying these areas.

These remaining roadless areas remain roadless because there is little of commodity resource value in them to pay for the cost of a road.

New Mexico's renewable resources are very marginal mainly due to our low rainfall. It doesn't take much grazing to cause over grazing. Livestock grazing can continue in areas designated as Wilderness to the limit of the grass resource the same as before. Parts of New Mexico has had a long standing history of overgrazing. Land agencies are gradually getting this mismanagement problem under control. Grazing permits have been reduced in some areas for improved management. Some of these necessary reductions took place during the RARE-I and RARE-II period but were not due to Wilderness designation or consideration, just better range management. I cannot see where the stockmen have much room for complaint for they are already getting a real bargain on grazing fees on Federal lands. If they complain about tending their livestock on horseback, I'm sure we can find plenty of others willing to manage grazing lands on horseback.

Most of our better timber lands in New Mexico have already been logged over at least once and are not considered a part of RARE-II. Any remaining timber is mainly in small patches or stringers in canyon bottoms and would not present a profitable timber operation. Some timber has been put up for sale by the Forest Service but remains uncut and unsold for the lack of a bidder. Some timber is not considered for cutting due to environmental problems, steep terrain.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 permits mineral exploration until 1984. During these 16 years, surprisingly little interest has been shown in drilling for minerals in the remaining Roadless Areas. During RARE-II, the Forest Service placed areas in a further planning category if it was thought to have minerals or enegry related potential.

We know of over 400 letters and form letters that were sent to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation supporting Wilderness consideration for three of our nicest but most endangered proposed Wildernesses in New Mexico. These three areas, the Proposed Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin 33,900 acres, the proposed Canjilon Mountain-El Rito Meadows 22,200 acres, and the 41,700 acre proposed Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness minus 2,520 acres of BLM land for a total of 39,180 acres still go begging for a Congress to support them.

Livestock grazing is about the only resource in these three areas. They are endangered mainly from the ORV enthusiasts within the Forest Service who pursue their ORV hobby under the pretense of management and at the taxpayers expense. These three areas have been documented with detailed maps, colored prints, and written descriptions which are on file in Congressman Lujan's and Senator Domenici's offices.

We have been pursueing Wilderness consideration and protection for these worthy areas with the Forest Service since 1969. These three areas were included in the proposed New Mexico Wilderness Omnibus Bill of 1975. Since then, the Forest Service has bladed up a jeep trail in the proposed Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin Wilderness deliberately trying to spoil it for Wilderness consideration.

We have 54 proposed Wildernesses in New Mexico that are worthy and will be needed especially since gasoline is getting so expensive. We need a Wilderness area near each populated center. We may be one of the lower income per capita states in the nation but we are rich in potential Wildernesses. Wilderness has real financial potential. In 1956 there was only 3 companies in all United States that handled lightweight backpacking equipment. Today there are four major companies in Albuquerque that specialise in lightweight backpack equipment. There are dozens of business firms in New Mexico that carry Wilderness related supplies as a sideline item.

What will it take to get the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to listen to the majority of New Mexican's and help us save our priceless heritage of potential Wildernesses. Senate Bill 2583 is truly an Anti-Wilderness Bill. It opens up 489,000 acres of New Mexico Forest Service land that is now protected for planning and evaluation as Wilderness. S-2583 ignores the recommendations of Wilderness Conservationists in New Mexico, and further ignores the recommendations of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture and the endorsement of President Carter. We need your help to save Wildernesses, not your release language to help destroy it. New Mexico would be better off without S-2583. This speaks very poorly of our delegation.

If you cannot remove the release language and restore the areas and acerages endorsed by President Carter, then S-2583 should die in committee.

Please help us save New Mexico's potential Wilderness and stop working against us! Please listen to the majority of New Mexicans and not just those who have money.

Sincerely,

Milo M. Conrad

Milo M. Conrad
Past Director and Founder
New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee

GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS TASK FORCE

Thank you for considering legislation in Congress of wildernesses on U. S. Forest Service lands in New Mexico. Conservationists have been studying many of these areas as early as the mid 1960's for wilderness consideration and have prepared wilderness proposals for Congress and the Forest Service on the prime potential areas in 1975.

The Forest Service prepared a Roadless Area, RARE-II study, in the late 1970's. This study started out good but soon the anti-wilderness biases and prejudices began to appear. Some U. S. Forest's following a more purist approach, began to trim off parts of areas with jeep trails in them (jeep trails the Forest Service helped to originate). Some of our nicer and more unique areas were dropped from the RARE-II list with very little real valid reason. These include the Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin and the Canjilon Mountain-El Rito Meadows area. About one-half of the Guadalupe Escarpment area was dropped because of a Forest Service jeep trail.

MOST ENDANGERED PROPOSED WILDERNESSES IN NEW MEXICO

These three areas are the most endangered proposed wildernesses in New Mexico and are endangered mainly from Forest Service management abuse such as the grading of the jeep trail across Brazos Ridge of Cruces Basin and the primitive road in Osier Canyon just two months after the RARE-II inventory. This road grading was done without notifying the public and without preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. There is no need for a road through this area. There is a feasible alternate route along the southern forest boundary of Osier Mesa linking the Lagunitas Road #87 to the Apache Creek Road and Cumbres Pass Highway. Behind the scene, Carson National Forest personnel are calling the Brazos Ridge and Osier Canyon road the "Chavez Travelway," eventually a scenic highway similar to the earlier unpopular Sandia Crest highway. A scenic highway through this area would run competition with the State-owned Toltec Narrow Gauge Railroad which is already having financial problems.

The Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin and Canjilon Mountain-El Rito Meadows areas were both burned over by an intense forest fire about 1880 and scattered groves of timber are just now getting a start. The soils are fragile and the grasses have had a history of overgrazing. Why not enjoy these two magnificent areas as wilderness for the next century or so while the soils, grasses, and timber recover? Why not let a future generation decide when the timber resource becomes greater than the wilderness resource? Official wilderness classification is needed in the meantime to prevent the O.R.V. crowd and the Forest Service from abusing the land. At the request of the Forest Service, the swath cut along Sandia Crest for the ill-fated Sandia Crest highway was added to the Sandia Wilderness. This was accomplished in House Committee Report # 95-540 of the 95th Congress, 1st Session, on July 27, 1977. The Carson National Forest claims that the crude access roads make the total area unmanageable for wilderness. Why not close the undesired Brazos Ridge Road and Osier Mesa jeep trail and make them a part of the 33,900 acre wilderness? A narrow exclusion could be allowed along the southwest boundary for the proper location of a road if the Carson Forest feels that a road really is needed.

PROPOSED CANJILON MOUNTAIN-EL RITO MEADOWS WILDERNESS ENLARGED

The 20,500 acre Canjilon Mountain-El Rito Meadows Wilderness as proposed in 1975, has recently been enlarged on the southwest corner by the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. This will coincide with the Forest Service RARE-II boundary in this region and should provide a good buffer for the 22,200 acre area.

This area, like the other two most endangered areas, has very few resource conflicts and has low mineral and energy ratings. Marginal livestock grazing, wildlife habitat and watershed along with wilderness are the main resources.

GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS IS UNIQUE AND OF NATIONAL INTEREST

The proposed 41,720 acre Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness is very special since it is the only exposed ancient sea reef of its type in the Free World (a similar reef exists in Russia). About 150 wild caves are located within this proposed area in the Lincoln National Forest.

Each cave is unique and has its own small but simple ecosystem. Some animals, insects, and fish have adapted to this cool, dark, and food-poor environment with special metabolic and behavioral characteristics often including blindness. This small ecosystem, so much simpler than that just a few hundred feet above it, intrigues scientists for the lessons to be learned about complex systems. Unfortunately, a jeep trail has been permitted along Guadalupe Ridge where many of these caves exist.

This area is also the nesting area of the endangered American peregrine falcon and probably ranges over much of the 41,720 acres for food. The Southern bald eagle formerly used this area but has not been observed in the area for many years.

The mottled rock rattlesnake (crotalus lepidus) is on the State of New Mexico's endangered animal list and occurs in this area.

The Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Task Force prepared and published a Wilderness Proposal for essentially this same area in 1970 as part of the Unified Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness which we hope some day can be named the Clinton P. Anderson Wilderness.

Of the 41,720 acre Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness proposed by the Task Force, about 2,300 acres is B.L.M. land. The Forest Service is recommending only 21,300 acres because of the jeep trail on Guadalupe Ridge. The Task Force strongly recommends closing of the Ridge jeep trail to protect the caves and Endangered American peregrine falcon. It would also reduce deer poaching and the possibility of cattle rustling. A large campground is proposed on the Ridge near Dark Canyon Fire Lookout as a trail-head for hunters, hikers, and Cavers, eliminating the need for the Ridge jeep trail. O.R.V.'s and lax Forest Service management continue to degrade this unique area. Only Wilderness Classification for all 41,720 acres can adequately protect this area and the priceless caves.

The Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Task Force is comprised of members of the Cave Research Foundation, the Speleological Society and the New Mexico Mountain Club. Some of our members are from the original Task Force that prepared the original Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Proposal in 1969 and 1970.

Please give these three endangered proposed wildernesses serious consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Milo M. Conrad
Acting Chairman GEWTF

Past Director and Founder
New Mexico Wilderness Study
Committee

GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

This proposed part of the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness is in the Lincoln National Forest and joins the Carlsbad Caverns National Park Wilderness on the east and the Guadalupe Mountains National Park Wilderness on the south. These areas are the most unique in the country for they have a spectacular above ground Wilderness in it's deep canyons and along the ridge in between (see photographs P-1 through P-4 of enclosure "J"). There is also an underground Wilderness in it's many caves. Estimated have placed the number of caves in this proposed area as high as 150. The Forest Service has located about 80 caves and suggest that there are probably many more. The exposed ancient sea reef of Guadalupe Ridge is the only one like it in the free world which makes it unique indeed.

There is prolific herd of small deer in the southern part of the Lincoln National Forest that brouse on brush in these parts. Some of these deer are found in this proposed Wilderness. The Forest Service has cleared pinon and juniper along the ridge trails to permit hunters in jeeps to hunt deer. (see photos P-5 (Encl"J" through P-7). These pictures were taken near Dark Canyon Fire Lookout and the jeep trail gets worse. One Easter week-end while hiking Lonesome Ridge we came across a game tote vehicle stashed in a bush (see P-8). This was located about one half mile from the ridge jeep trail. Four legs of a recently killed deer were found near this vehicle. This apparent deer poaching operation was reported to the State Game and Fish Department upon returing to Albuquerque. They expressed doubt that much could be done about it due to the availability of the ridge jeep trail.

The New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee's proposed Wilderness (see enclosure "K") closes most of the jeep trail along Guadalupe Ridge, but it does leave an area open for a large campground near the Dark Canyon fire lookout for hunters on the ridge. The Forest Service proposed area (see enclosure "L"), shows a corridor to Dark Canyon fire lookout, but the space for the campground was not shown. The NMWSC considers this campground on the ridge a necessity for hunters when the Wilderness is established and the ridge jeep trail is closed. We consider closure of the ridge jeep trail as a necessary step in protecting the deer herd from poachers, and protecting the Wilderness from ORV abuses.

The basic proposed area of the Lincoln National Forest encompasses about 21,000 acres with about 1,800 acres of BLM land in the Roswell District added. Forest Service Alternative A would add 16,400 acres and alternative B would add another 2,000 acres. Wilderness specialist, Gary Marsh, of the BLM Las Cruces District agrees that 320 acres of the Devils Den area should be added to the west. (see area in Red of map enclosure "L"). This total proposed area is about 41,520 acres and has only minor boundary adjustments from the NMWSC proposal of July 1973 (see enclosure map "K").

The Cave Research Foundation and the National Speleological Society proposed a very similar area for Wilderness Classification in 1970 and are still interested in preservation of the caves.

The Forest Service recognizes the uniqueness of this area and rated it in the upper 15% of the areas in New Mexico in the Wilderness attribate rating developed for RARE-II.

RECREATIONAL activities occuring in this area include caving, hunting, sightseeing, hiking, backpacking, dispersed camping, photography and horseback riding.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANTS AND ANIMALS of the list of endangered wildlife (vol. 41:208, Oct. 27, 1976), two species occur in the area. These are the American peregrine falcon (Falco pregrinus anatum), which nests in the area, and also, Southern bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus), which has not been observed in the area for many years.

The mottled rock rattlesnake (crotalus lepidus lepidus) is on the state of New Mexico's endangered animal list and occurs in the proposed area.

The following is a list of plants which may occur in the proposed wilderness. These plants are currently being considered proposed or nominated to the list of threatened and endangered plants:

Aquilegia chaplinei
Lesquerella valida
Polygala rimulicola
Aletes filifolius
Chaetopappa hersheyi
Escobaria sneedii var. leei
Nama xylopodum
Rosa stellata
Streptanthus carinatus
Valeriana texana
Euphorbia fendleri var. triliqulata
Streptanthus sparsiflorus

WILDLIFE

If the future studies indicate suitability, the desert bighorn sheep and harlequin quail may be introduced into the area and managed within the habitat's carrying capacity. Reintroduction of these species will allow the area to again approach the natural wildlife conditions that existed prior to intervention by man.

Elk are axotics introduced in 1928 after extinction of the native Merrian's elk. Other native large animals in the area include deer, black bear, and mountain lion. The Barbary sheep has extended its range south to include this area. Native small mammals include gray fox, coyote, bobcat, pocket gophers, jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, skunks, ringtails and raccoons. Some of the caves are inhabited by various species of bats during warm portions of the year. Common birds include wrens, logger-head shrike, cave swallow, scaled quail, and the roadrunner. Reptiles of the area include several species of rattlesnakes and many species of non-poisonous snakes such as the rat snake, whipsnake, and gopher snake. Amphibians include queen toads, spade foot toads, and others. Insects are plentiful with a good population of tarantulas. scorpions, and centipedes.

ARCHAEOLOGY Archaeological sites in the area document the adaptation of prehistoric people to this arid environment. The Guadalupe Mountains contain a variety of resources which figured prominently in the subsistence of such people. Pinyon nuts, acorns, agave, sotol, prickly pear, yucca, and a variety of animals were consistently gathered throughout the prehistoric period, and were used in historic times by the Apache. Because past people often left behind material remains during the exploitation of these resources, the proposed wilderness contains abundant and significant archaeological sites.

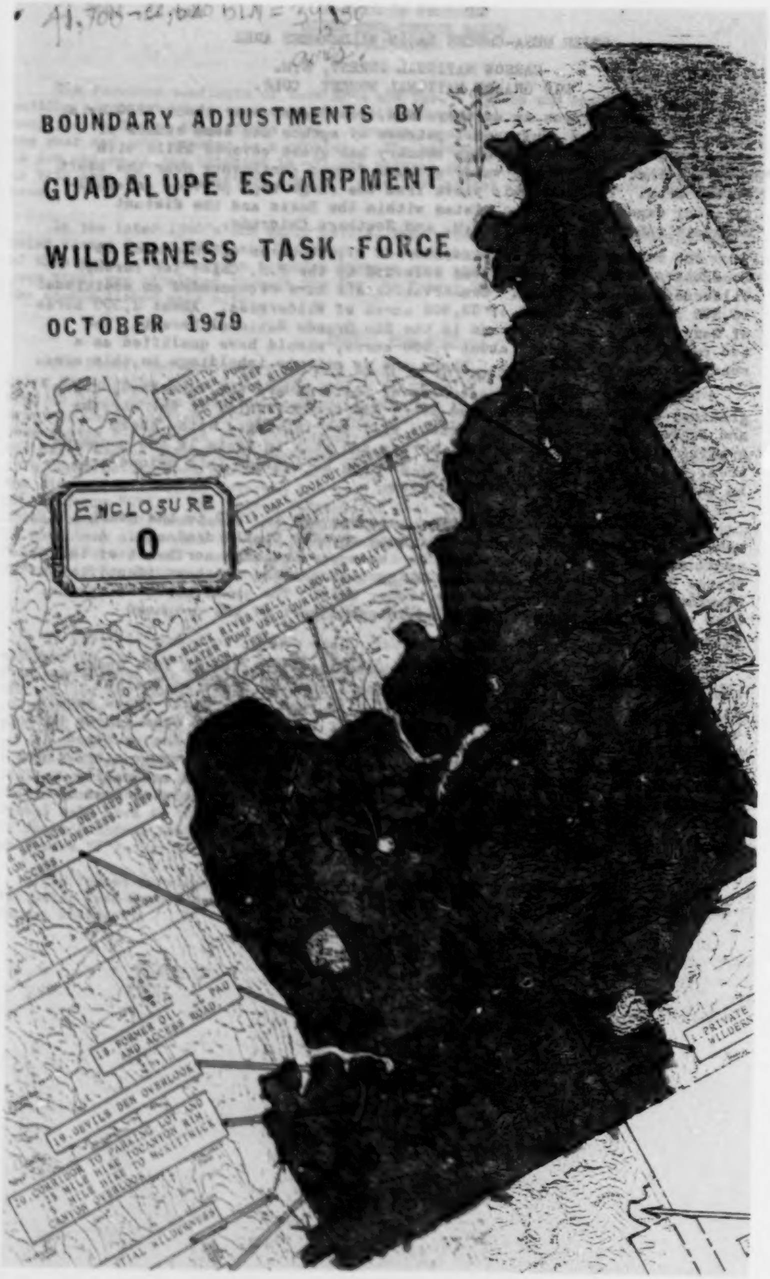
Beginning about 1400 A.D., for reasons which are poorly understood, the area was essentially abanoned for at least 150 years. Apache populations are known to have occupied the region by at least the mid-1500's. The Apache adaptation was primarily a hunting and gathering one, very similar to that of the Archaic period.

The archaeological resources of the proposed wilderness area reflect this use of the region for short-term exploitation of seasonally available resources. Thus, the sites are mainly short occupation camps characterized by scatters of ceramics, chipping debris, or food processing materials. Pictograph sites, such as Painted Grotto, have also been recorded in this area.

ASSOCIATED LAND There are about 5,000 acres of wilderness land in northwest corner of Carlsbad Caverns National Park that should qualify for Wilderness classification. Public Law # 95-625 asks the Secretary of Interior to review this area for suitibility for Wilderness by 1980.

It is the goal of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee and many others, that someday the Unified Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness can be named the Clinton P. Anderson Wilderness.

41,700 - 22,620 61A = 39,180



BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS BY GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS TASK FORCE

OCTOBER 1979

ENCLOSURE
O

WATER PUMP SEASON. JEEP TO TANK ON RIDGE
13. DARK LOOKOUT ACCESS CORRIDOR
16. BLACK RIVER WELL, GASOLINE DRIVEN WATER PUMP USED DURING GRAZING SEASON. JEEP TRAIL ACCESS
SPRINGS. DESIGNATE AS TO WILDERNESS. JEEP ACCESS.
18. FORMER OIL PAD AND ACCESS ROAD
19. DEVILS DEN OVERLOOK
20. CORRIDOR TO PARKING LOT AND 1/2 MILE HIKE TO CANYON RIM, 2 MILE HIKE TO McKITTRICK CANYON OVERLOOK
POTENTIAL WILDERNESS
1-PRIVATE WILDERN

May 15, 1975

OSIER MESA-CRUCES BASIN WILDERNESS AREA

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST, N.M.
RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST, COLO.

This unusual area in northern N.M. was burned over about 1880 by a large intense fire. Only small patches of spruce and some stands of Aspen have returned. This high country has grass covered hills with deep canyons. Four clear water streams form a confluence near the heart of the area. The panoramic views from the ridge tops provide an exhiliarating experience of the vistas within the Basin and the distant mountain ranges in Northern N.M. and Southern Colorado.

The Forest Service has inventoried 17,600 acres of this area as Roadless Area No. 10 and it was selected by the F.S. Chief for further Wilderness consideration. Conservationists have recommended an additional 16,300 acres for a total of 33,900 acres of Wilderness. About 2,300 acres of Osier Mesa are in Colorado in the Rio Grande National Forest. The two parts of Osier Mesa, about 7,000 acres, should have qualified as a roadless area as an entity. There are no private inholdings in this area.

RESOURCES: Theprime resources of the area are the watershed, sheep grazing, some wildlife (elk and deer) and trout fishing in the streams and beaver ponds. Wilderness status will not interfere with sheep grazing since the herdsmen ride horses and stay in tents in the proposed area. Public interest is steadily growing to include this unique area in the Wilderness Preservation System.

TIMBER: The Lagunitas timber sale was let in 1970 to the southwest of this area and extends over into the Rio Diablo drainage. A small amount of cutting was done in the upper drainage northeast of the Brazos Ridge. The top of Brazos Ridge will provide the best identifiable boundary through the area of the timber sale. The small patch of spruce that was cut will revert and be an integral part of the proposed Wilderness

Most of this area was closed to motorized vehicles in 1974 under the "Habitat Protection Act". Jeep trails such as those on Brazos Ridge and Osier Mesa, along with the fading road along Osier Creek should also be closed. A corridor is proposed for the road down Osha Canyon to a vista point overlooking the confluences of the streams. The proposed Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin Area is still wilderness and its scenic attractions qualify it for official Wilderness protection. Boundaries are easily identifiable and defendable. Current use of motorized vehicles must be curtailed to protect this resource.

UP-DATE ON PROPOSED
OSIER MESA-CRUCES BASIN
WILDERNESS

The resource conflicts of this area are few. Spruce and Aspen are just now getting a good start in patches. The soil and grasses are still quite fragile in many places due to the intense fire. Grazing season is only about three months of the year and over grazing is a problem. The hard rock mineral rating for this area is low and so is the interest in oil and natural gas. Practically the only resources in this area are ; livestock grazing, wildlife habitat (Elk), Watershed, and Wilderness.

In the later 1960's and early 1970's, the Forest Service drove motorized vehicles across Brazos Ridge and Osier Mesa to tend the Apache timber sale to the west of this area, even though a blacktop highway goes around this area to the north. A jeep trail was developed through the area by Forest Service vehicular traffic to the Apache timber sale site.

RARE-1 and RARE-II

The Forest Service used this jeep trail as an excuse to exclude a part of Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin from their RARE-1 and RARE-II inventories. A primitive road in Osier Canyon used for hauling timber from the Tierra Amarilla (T.A.) Grant to Osier station in Colorado in the 1920's and 1930's, was also excluded. (see photos P-8 through P-12 of enclosure "A"). To the best of our knowledge, the Osier Canyon timber haul road had not been maintained since the early days of it's construction (see photos P-7 and P-8). The northern access bridge across the Rio de los Pinos in Colorado has been washed out for many years (see photo P-26 of enclosure "C"). The Brazos Ridge-Osier Mesa jeep trail (see P-9 through P-12 of enclosure "A") had never been maintained and should have qualified for the RARE-II inventory along with the primitive, unmaintained Osier Canyon road. The Carson National Forest used a more purist approach on RARE-II than did the other National Forests in New Mexico in excluding this jeep trail and the primitive road.

ILLEGAL ROAD GRADING

In early September of 1977, a few months after the RARE-II inventory was approved by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Carson National Forest sent a road grader into the proposed Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin Wilderness, without notifying the public, and graded the Brazos Ridge jeep trail (see photos P-13 through P-17 of Enclosure "E"). They also did some grading of the Osier Canyon road (see photos P-28 and P-29 of enclosure "C"). The Rio Grande National Forest apparently didn't go along with this scheme since the grading stopped at the Colorado State line (see Photos P-24 and P-25 of enclosure "C"). About three steel tube culverts were installed at the time of the grading. (see photo P-17). Heavy equipment was driven across the Osier Mesa jeep trail to do some road repair work in the Apache timber sale area at the same time (see photos P-18 through P-23 of enclosure "D"). It doesn't appear that any grading was done on the Osier Mesa jeep trail (see map enclosure "F").

The Forest Service didn't notify the public of their plans to do grading in the Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin Wilderness. Neither did they prepare an environmental Impact Statement.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS REPORT

The grading was done under the approval of an Environmental Analysis Report (E.A.R.), an internal document not known to the public until after the fact. (see enclosure "B"). The E.A.R. gives no mention of the long standing proposed Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin Wilderness (see map"F"). Nor does the E.A.R. mention the strong public sentiment shown for protection of this area at the ORV public meeting at Tres Piedras (see enclosed letter "M") or of the long efforts of the NMWC and other conservation groups for Wilderness classification for this area (see enclosed letter "I").

The Carson National Forest was remiss when preparing the E.A.R. in not considering potential alternative routes to the Southwest of Brazos Ridge and Osier Mesa along the Forest Service boundary (see map "F"). The E.A.R. does mention that drainage of an Osier Mesa road would be impossible due to the gradual slope of the terrain. It also mentions that the livestock driveway on the Osier Canyon Road is detrimental to the grasses and soil. Livestock is driven over the Apache Creek road when water is running high in the Rio de los Pinos at the Osier Canyon crossing. Why not always use the Apache Creek road for livestock drives?

POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Fortunatley the Forest Service only did a small part of the road work called for in the E.A.R., just enough to justify their decision to exclude these parts from the RARE-II inventory. Better potential routes do exist that would link the Lagunitas road to the Apache Creek road and the Cumbres Pass Highway (see enclosed map "F", routes U-U", and V-V").

The alternative V,V', U' and U" is just inside the Forest Service boundary and is entirely on Forest Service land. The southern tip of Osier Mesa ridge does extend across this route and a cut through this ridge would be necessary. It is feasible.

Another alternate route is V-V', to U". This route is mostly on Forest Service land. A land exchange of about one section of land with the T.A. Grant could put this route entirely on Forest Service land. And the cut through the tip of the ridge would not be necessary.

Alternate route V, V', and V" already exist as a road across the corner of the T.A. Grant. A land exchange of about three sectionr would be required by the Forest Service with the T.A. Grant.

Any of the above alternate routes should meet all of the road needs in this vicinity.

WHY ALL THE STONEWALLING BY THE CARSON FOREST?

Over the past ten years, it remained a deep mystery why the Carson National Forest was continually dragging their feet to the Wilderness consideration for this area, driving their own vehicles across the area until a jeep trail is formed, then assign a number to it and call it a system road. All the time they were giving us such weak and flimsey excuses.

After the grading in this area, I filed an Administrative Appeal of this decision (see enclosed letter "N"). This appeal was denied as being untimely presented. It was longer than 45 days after the E.A.R. was signed before I appealed. It was longer than 45 days before I learned about the grading or the E.A.R.. actual.

While we were gathering information from the Carson National Forest for the appeal, a Carson Forest Service staff member made a slip-of-the-tongue and referred to the grading as the Chaves Travelway, a Scenic Highway similar to the former Sen. Dennis Chaves's unpopular proposed Sandia Crest Highway.

Now it seems apparent that this was a planned scheme, to wear a jeep trail across Brazos Ridge and Osier Mesa, to assign it a number and call it a systems road, to grade up the jeep trail and primitive road to disqualify them for Wilderness consideration, to call for a higher level of maintenance of the graded road (see enclosure "B"), then call for blacktopping the widened road to reduce sedimentation in the Rio de los Pinos and Rio Grande Rivers. This would give the Forest Service a Scenic Highway through the area without involving the public.

A Scenic Highway through this area would run competition with the State owned and operated Toltec Narrow Gage Scenic Railroad which runs along the northern boundary of the proposed Wilderness. The Toltec Narrow Gage Railroad is already having financial trouble to stay in operation, without having to compete with a Scenic Highway.

A short alternative road along the southern Forest Service boundary linking Lagunitas and the Apache Creek road would serve all of the road needs in this area. The Brazos Ridge-Osier Mesa and the primitive Osier Creek road could be put to bed, further reducing sedimentation in the rivers.

MORE STONE WALLING

After the roadgrading in the proposed Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin area, the Carson National Forest started using the excuse that the area would no longer be manageable for Wilderness and excluded the entire area from further Wilderness consideration in RARE-II, due to the improved accesses of their grading.

The Carson National Forest also uses the excuse that since this is a financially depressed part of the state, an intense grazing plan is prepared for this area. Yet the Carson National Forest admits in the E.A.R. (enclosure B) that this area is over-grazed and has had a long history of overgrazing. Better controlled grazing is what is needed.

NMWSC'S PROPOSAL OF WILDERNESS IS BEST USE FOR THIS AREA

The photos in enclosure "A" show the uniqueness of this area. The resource conflicts are few. Most cutting timber resource is a century or two in the future. Hard Rock mineral rating is low. Interest in Oil and Natural gas in this area is low. Livestock grazing, to the limits of the Range resource, would be permitted. Elk habitat would be improved with roads and jeep trails closed to motor vehicles. A good alternate route for a system road exists along the southwest perimeter joining the Lagunatis road and Apache Creek road. Water quality in the Rio de los Pinos and Rio Grande would be improved by less sedimentation. Wilderness classification would aid, not compete with the State's owned Toltec Narrow Gage Railroad. A Wilderness outing linked with a trip to and from the area on the Narrow Gage Railroad will give a real Frontier flavor to the experience. The soil and grasses in the area are fragile and need more time to recover from the intense forest fire.

CLOSE ILLEGAL ROAD

It is unfortunate that the Carson National Forest jumped-the-gun and graded up the Brazos Ridge jeep trail without first soliciting comprehensive public input. Roads are not needed in this area for management.

Cruces area #3-034 and Osier Areas #3-999 and 2-999 of RARE-II (see map enclosure "F") are very pristine and worthy of Wilderness classification. As the Carson National Forest has indicated it will be more difficult to control ORV traffic with the new access roads open. Since the road is not really needed, why not put the entire 33,900 acres into the Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin Wilderness closing the illegal road?

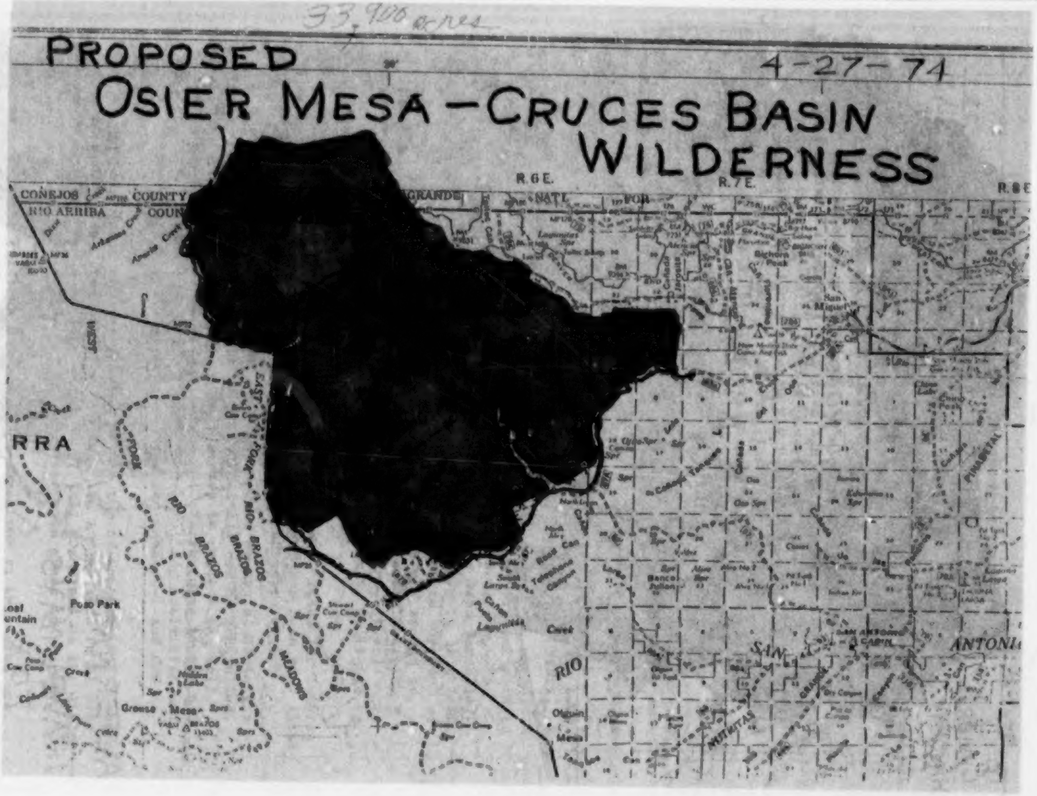
SIMILAR SITUATION

This situation is very similar to the wide swath and associated timber haul road cut in the Sandia Mountains for the unpopular proposed Sandia Crest Highway, that was later cancelled. At the request of the Forest Service, this 170 acre swath was added to the Sandia Wilderness to help control ORV's that were using the timber haul road. This was accompolished in House Committee report #95-540 of the 95th Congress, 1st session on July 27,1977.

Why not close the Brazos Ridge Road and Osier Mesa jeep trail and make them a part of the Wilderness for better control of ORV's? The grading on Brazos Ridge isn't nearly as bad as the swath cut in the Sandias.

A State Game Department employee reported at the ORV hearing there are plenty of horses on hunts to get the Elk out without the use of ORV'S (see enclosure "M").

Osier Mesa-Cruces Basin area rated among the highest of the Carson areas in letters favoring Wilderness in RARE-II.



33,900 acres

PROPOSED

4-27-74

OSIER MESA – CRUCES BASIN WILDERNESS

CONEJOS
RIO ARRIBA
COUNTY
COUNTY
GRANDE
NAT'L FOR
R.6E.
R.7E.
R.8E
WEST
RRA
EAST FORK
RIO BRAZOS
BRAZOS
FORK
RIO BRAZOS
MEADOWS
Poso Park
Grouse Mesa
RIO
SAN ANTONIO
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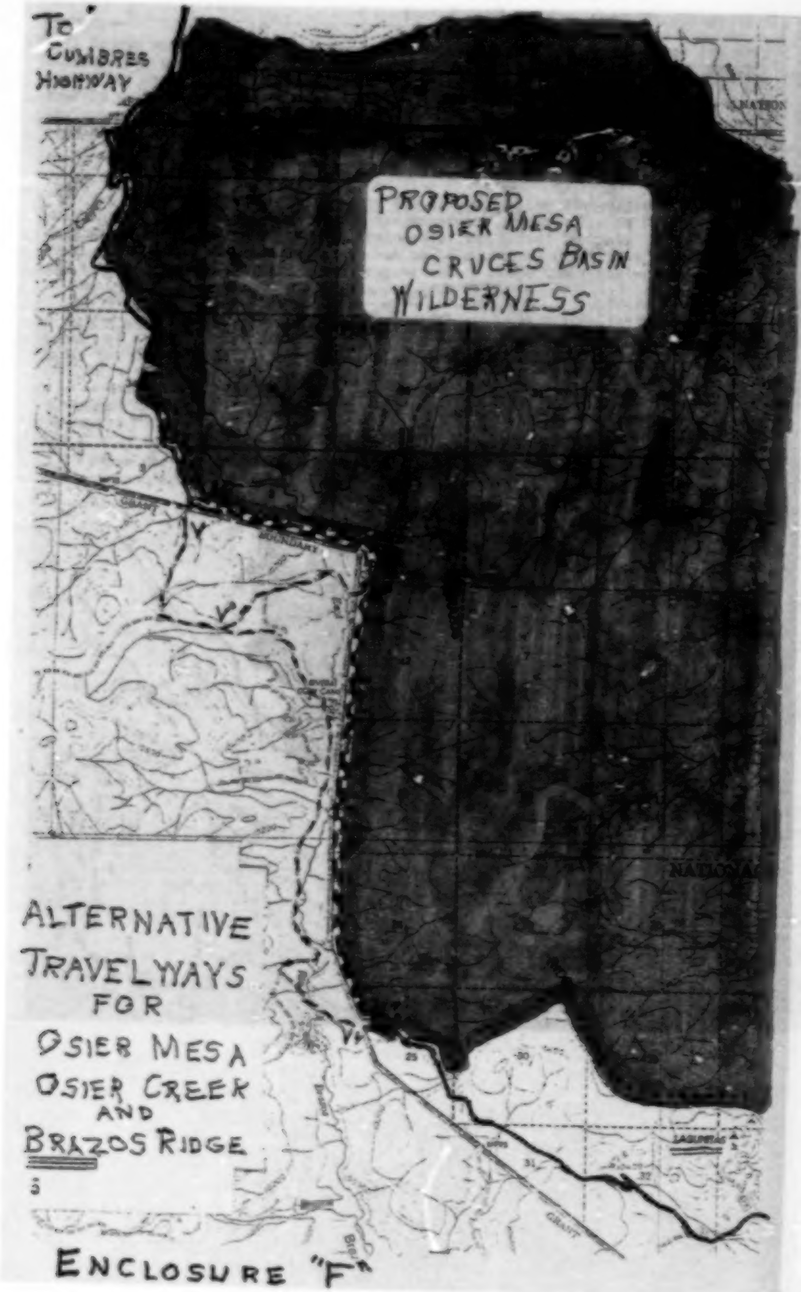

TO CUMBRES HIGHWAY
PROPOSED OSIER MESA CRUCES BASIN WILDERNESS
ALTERNATIVE TRAVELWAYS FOR OSIER MESA OSIER CREEK AND BRAZOS RIDGE
ENCLOSURE "F"

May 15, 1975

PROPOSED
CANJILON MOUNTAIN-EL RITO MEADOWS WILDERNESS
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

This 20,500 acre area includes the 5,000 acre Canjilon Mountain Roadless Area, Canjilon Mt. and lands to the west in the Red Hill Area, plus El Rito Meadows, Fifteen Springs, and El Rito Canyon Areas.

WILDERNESS: Much of this area was burned over by an intense fire about 1880. Scattered spruce and aspen stands have returned forming many pleasant meadows and parks. This area can accommodate many hikers and backpackers without crowding. Grass covered and tree dotted hills provide a refreshing experience rate in New Mexico. In addition to the small lakes and beaver dams in the Canjilon Area, there is a good trout stream extending from Fifteen Springs down through El Rito Canyon. El Rito Canyon is a good hiking area and streams of this type are scarce in the Southwest.

WILDLIFE: This is prime elk habitat but poaching has considerably reduced the herd. The area should be closed to motorized vehicles and protected under the N.M. "Habitat Protection Act". Beaver dams are found along streams and the Pica can heard in the rocky areas. Bear, coyotes and other smaller animals are also found here.

GRAZING: Grazing has been heavy in the vicinity of Canjilon Lakes and in El Rito Canyon by several large sheep flocks in recent years. A study is being made of a change to cattle.

TIMBER: Extensive logging has taken place on each side of El Rito Canyon and to the east of the area in the Vallecitos drainage. The Arriba Area I timber sale in the Canjilon Mt. area has been cancelled due to unstable soils in this region. After the big burn in late 1800, large patches of soil would slide down the steep slopes in the form of ridges during the years of heavy rainfall. The trees are needed to stabilize the soils around Canjilon Mt. Though spruce are starting a come-back following the forest fire nearly 100 years ago, it will take another 150 to 200 years before much commercial timber is available in this area.

MINERALS: One section north of Canjilon Mt. was leased for natural gas potential but no activity has taken place. There has been very little past mining interest in this vicinity and none is anticipated.

Logging operations near this area have opened up new accesses for jeeps. There are about eight access points but all can be controlled. This area should be closed to off-road vehicles to protect the soil, watershed, wildlife, and wilderness resources. Surrounding timber cut areas should be closed except for future timber cutting activities and for fire control, as a protective boundary. See areas C-1 and C-2 on the map.

A small abandoned shelter remains on the top of Canjilon Mt. Several scattered spring developments for sheep watering are located in El Rito Meadows. Soil conservation furrows plowed in the grassland on the divide to the west of El Rito Canyon are growing over with grass and hardly noticeable.

The quietness, solitude and pastorial character of this area are outstanding features and should be included in the Wilderness Preservation System.

ENCLOSURES

Efforts to get protection for this area dates back to the mid 1960's and has continued through the 1970's (see enclosure "I"-letter to Mr. Snyder of June 15, 1974).

This area is a plateau of rolling hills and is higher then the surrounding country (see photos P-I through P-7) of enclosure "G". Only jeeps or good pick-up trucks could drive into the area. Some jeep trails have developed (see photos P-4 through P-6).

Years ago, some soil conservation furrowa were made over about 400 acres in the Ojito Jarosito vicinity. These furrows are healing over and are not obtrusive (see photo P-3). These are probably the results of early day overgrazing which has been corrected. The furrowed area was left in the proposed Wilderness to retain the good natural defensive boundary wall to the southwest. (see map enclosure "H"). The small area cross-hatched in blue should also be included to improve the defensive boundary.

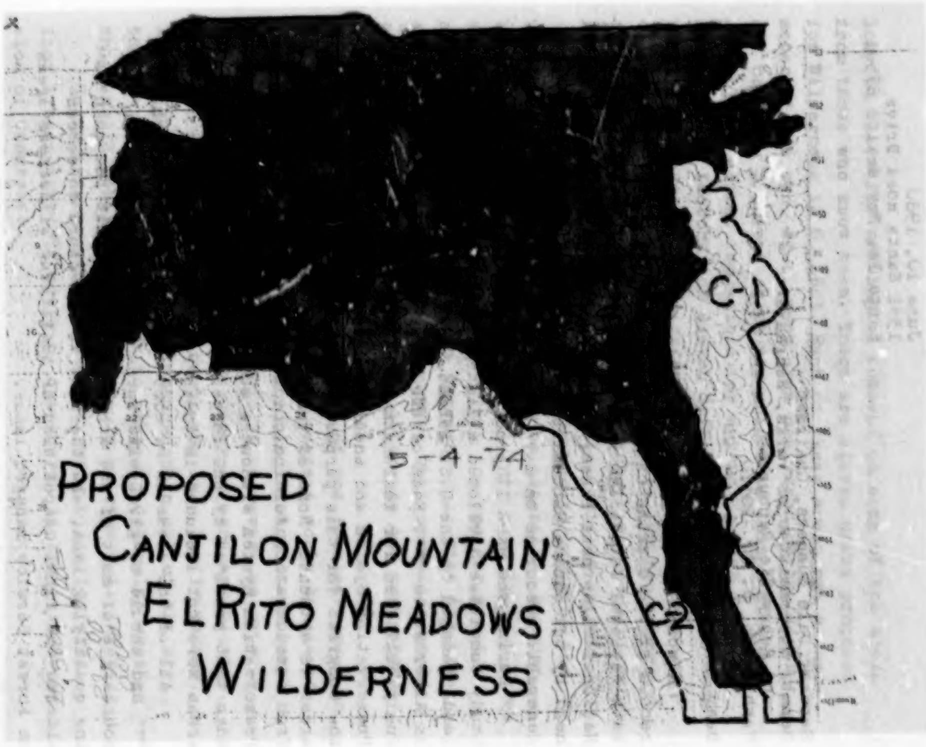
There are three developed springs in the area for sheep watering (see Photo P-7). These are in out-of-the-way places and are not very noticeable to hikers.

The Arriba Timber sale dragged out for years (see areas C-1 and C-2 of enclosed map "H"). Some timber cutting was done after this map was proposed (see areas cross-hatched in red). These areas in red should be excluded from the proposed Wilderness. The Arriba sale was a heavy timber cut and it will probably be fifty (50) years or more before the next cut. Only the area shown in yellow is proposed for Wilderness designation. Timber cutting has opened up new motor vehicle access points. Areas C-1 and C-2 should be available to timber company vehicles during timber sales, but general ORV traffic should be limited to points marked "X" as trail heads in areas C-1 and C-2.

The Northeast boundary of the proposed Wilderness borders on the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit. It is our intention to exclude and we think we have excluded all areas where timber cutting has taken place.

Though this area has been battered by overgrazing by sheep, some furrows by soil conservationist's, jeep trails by ORV's, burned over by intense forest fires, and heavily logged around it's perimeter; the heart of the area is quite pristine and is formed mainly by the forces of nature. The many meadows are cool and refreshing to hike in Summer. The trout stream in El Rito Canyon and the Beaver dams below 15 Springs are rare in New Mexico. Mt. Canjilon is a real challenge to climb. It is a real Gem of an area but we must act now to save this endangered area for future generations to cherish and enjoy.

This area received a high percentage of letters favoring Wilderness consideration in RARE-II.



PROPOSED
CANJILON MOUNTAIN
EL RITO MEADOWS
WILDERNESS

June 10, 1980
1391 Santa Rosa Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Senator Dale Bumpers, Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation
and Renewable Resources
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bumpers:

I would like to have the following included in the record of the hearing on S. 2583, A Bill to Designate Certain National Forest Lands In New Mexico As Additions to National Wilderness Preservation System. The hearing was held by the Senate Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation and Renewable Resources on May 29, 1980.

During the RARE II process, the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee developed a list of recommended areas on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. This list is known as Alternative "W". Each of the areas in Alternative "W" is fully qualified for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and should be given careful review by the Congress for this purpose. A complete listing of these areas is attached. None of these areas should be released from consideration for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System without a much more thorough review than that provided by the Forest Service. Many significant areas were not included in their recommendations.

All of the areas in S. 2583 are included in Alternative "W" and should be given wilderness status. However, the boundaries of most of the areas in S. 2583 omit too much of the qualifying land, and the list is too short to be considered the final disposition of qualifying wilderness areas on Forest Service managed lands.

Even though the list is far from complete, it is too long to allow for meaningful comment on each of the areas from those who know them. There are eleven areas proposed for Wilderness in S. 2583. Each of these areas has a character of its own. Also, each area has resource conflicts and boundary problems which are unique to that particular area. It is almost impossible for anyone to keep track of all of these factors for eleven different areas at the same time. I believe the disposition of the remaining fragments of our unprotected wilderness heritage is far too important to be done casually. Each area should be given careful consideration by the Congress before this decision is made.

To prepare a bill and hold hearings for each of the areas in Alternative "W" might not be necessary; however, separate legislation for each area larger than 100,000 acres would certainly be appropriate. Then the smaller areas might be handled in groups of three or four with the total acreage not to exceed 100.000 acres. This procedure could allow adequate time to carefully determine the most appropriate uses of these roadless areas.

To make such decisions on all of the roadless areas in New mexico during one session of Congress would be almost impossible and would certainly result in many other very important issues being neglected. If, however, an orderly schedule of three or four bills per year were established, the entire process could be completed in a timely manner. These lands have gone undeveloped through all of history; the few more years necessary to properly determine whether they should remain undeveloped would be time well invested.

Using this procedure, the following bills for areas from Alternative "W" could be considered in the next session of Congress:

a. Gila Wilderness Additions

b. Pecos Wilderness Additions

c. Lower San Francisco and Blue Range

d. Apache Kid

e. Aldo Leopold

f. Bandelier Wilderness Addition, El Capitan, and Canjilon - El Rito

g. Southern Guadalupes, Columbine - Hondo, Wheeler Peak, and San Pedro Parks

h. Cruces Basin, White Mountain, Latir Peak, and Withington

Maps of all of the above areas except Southern Guadalupes and San Pedro Parks are attached. At the present time the boundaries for these two areas are essentially the same as those studied by the Forest Service. However, there is considerable interest in enlarging the Southern Guadalupes boundary to include some additional cave entrances and protect those underground wilderness resources.

If the intent to consider legislation on these areas and a schedule or at least the order of consideration were announced early in the session, all interested parties could have time to prepare meaningful input.

It should be remembered that many of the people who have an interest in these lands do not have a staff of experts they can call on to do the work, but are ordinary citizens who have jobs and families that require most of their time. To follow a process which will allow these people to prepare their side of the story may take longer, but it is the only fair way to deal with lands which belong to all of the people.

Sincerely,

George Grossman

ALTERNATIVE W

The New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee proposes wilderness designation for the following National Forest areas. The acreage of our proposal is listed first, and the Forest Service RARE II acreage and recommendation (W for wilderness, NW for non-wilderness, FP for further planning) follows in parentheses.

Carson National Forest

Cruces Basin 34,600 (22,820 NW) High parklike meadows. Key summer range and calving grounds for elk.

Canjilon/El Rito 21,000 (7,800 NW) Unique high-country with many lakes, swamps and meadows. Important for wildlife.

Sierra Negra 17,300 (10,400 NW) Lower elevation pinon-juniper country. Striking badlands. Critical winter range for deer. Excellent for winter hiking.

Wheeler Peak Wilderness Additions 17,900 (15,200 W) Subalpine areas needed to round out the small Wheeler Peak Wilderness. Rugged canyons and lush meadows.

Latir Peak 26,200 (25,960 W) Superb alpine tundra. Elk summer range.

Columbine/Hondo (Gold Hill) 50,500 (46,050 FP) Extensive alpine and subalpine area. Important deer and elk summer and winter range.

Bull Canyon 12,000 (12,000 NW) Scenic, colorful sandstone canyon and cliffs.

Cibola National Forest

Guadalupe (Banco Breaks) 12,650 (12,650 NW) Spectacular mesa and canyon country. Vegetation zones range from desert grasslands to spruce. Adjacent to outstanding BLM roadless areas.

Apache Kid 99,700 (131,810 W) Vast, spectacular, remote area of the San Mateo Mountains. The area has abundant wildlife and varied vegetation--pinon-juniper to spruce fir. One of the finest areas in the state.

Withington 18,300 (19,110 W) Rugged, mountainous terrain in the northern San Mateo Mountains. Elevation varies from 6,000 to 10,000 feet.

Ryan Hill 37,800 (36,640 FP) Rugged area in the Magdalena Mountains. Elevations range up to 10,000 feet. Good habitat for mountain lion, black bear and deer.

Scott Mesa 40,000 (40,000 NW) A desert mountain range called the Bear Mountains. Many springs.

Canadian River Canyon 4,020 (4,020 W) A high plains canyon with riparian vegetation.

Mt. Tayler 6,360 (6,360 NW) This area is on a high volcanic peak which is sacred to the Navajo. Scenic canyon.

San Jose 17,890 (17,890 NW) Lower elevation foothills near Apache Kid area.

White Cap 11,800 (7,840 NW) Lower elevation foothills near the Withington area.

Cibola National Forest--cont.

Ranger Cabin 6, 380 (6,380 NW) Open mesa area with oak, pine, and grassland.
Cerro Alesna 6,910 (6,910 NW) Canyon-cut escarpment; pinon-juniper woodland; scenic views.

Coronado National Forest

Whitmire Canyon 18,000 (12,740 FP) Partly in Arizona, this is a very wild area of canyons, cliffs, and grasslands. The Peloncillo Mountains contain exotic flora (Mexican pinon, chapparral, Chihuahua pine) and fauna (Coues whitetail deer, coatimundi, javelina).
Bunk Robinson 15,850 (15,850 FP) Partly in Arizona, this area is an ecologically unique extension of Mexico's Sierra Madre. A good place for winter hiking.

Gila National Forest

Lower San Francisco & Blue Range 361,500--59,000 in NM (204,779 of Blue Range Primitive Area proposed for wilderness by Forest Service; 8,835 W and 11,500 FP for Lower San Francisco) One of the wildest areas in the nation. The canyon has bighorn sheep, exotic birds and extensive riparian vegetation. The endangered species here include the bald eagle, Black hawk and peregrine falcon.
Aldo Leopold 315,000 (253,850 W) Black Range Primitive Area. Superb wilderness, extraordinarily wild; lower elevation pinon-juniper to spruce fir on the crest.
Gila Wilderness Additions 239,000 (163,968 W) Includes the Gila Primitive Area and important lower elevation additions to the nation's oldest and New Mexico's finest wilderness area.
Devils Creek 91,000 (91,000 NW) Large, significant, diverse area along the San Francisco River and in the northern Mogollon Mountains.
Frisco Box 40,000 (40,000 NW) Spectacular box canyon along the northern San Francisco River.
Hell Hole 34,330 (34,330 FP) Wild, remote ecologically important grassland and oak savannah area. Partly in Arizona.
Gila Middle Box 32,000 (24,350 NW) Wild box canyon of lower Gila River; white water float trip; riparian ecosystem; important bird area.
Sawyers Peak 64,200 (64,200 NW) High, wild area in southern Black Range.
Aspen Mountain 22,100 (22,100 NW) Rugged, scenic, good hiking. North of the Blue Range Primitive Area.
T-Bar 7,000 (7,000 NW) Unique high elevation grassland.
Nolan 18,840 (18,840 NW) This area, which is partly in Arizona, contains rugged, scenic canyons. It is north of the Blue Range Primitive Area.
Mother Hubbard 6,500 (6,500 NW) Similar to Nolan.

Lincoln National Forest

Capitan Mountains 40,000 (38,000 W) Very rugged, wild, spectacular, mountain range; important bear and lion country; rock glaciers

Southern Guadalupes 21,300 (21,300 W) An area of deep, sheer-walled canyons, lofty ridges, and beautiful limestone caves. The vegetation zones range from Chihuahuan desert to ponderosa pine. A nationally significant area which is contiguous to wilderness in Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks.

White Mountain Wilderness Additions 21,690 (20,700 W) Important additions to the present wilderness.

Sacramento Escarpment 43,440 (43,440 FP) The proposed wilderness is the rugged west face of the escarpment. This is an area of steep canyons, diverse vegetation and important winter mule deer range.

Little Dog & Pup Canyons 25,920 (25,920 FP) Remote, ecologically important grasslands and canyons.

North Rocky Canyon 6,810 (6,810 NW) Canyons and grasslands with ecological importance. Many deer.

Carrizo Peak 16,450 (16,450 NW) Rugged and varied mountain country with good elk, bear and deer habitat.

Last Chance Canyon 9,860 (9,860 NW) Desert mesas and canyons

Ortega 10,890 (10,890 NW) Northern extension of the Sacramento Escarpment.

Santa Fe National Forest

Pecos Wilderness Additions 135,500 (77,000 W) Subalpine areas needed to round out the tremendously popular Pecos Wilderness. Elk summer range. Part of this area is in the Carson Natl. For.

Bandelier Wilderness Additions (Dome & Caja areas) 21,700 (6000 W for Dome; 14,000 NW for Caja) The Caja area is an important addition to the Bandelier Wilderness on the east side of White Rock Canyon. Dome is an area of deep canyons and scenic mountains west of the existing wilderness.

Polvadera 15,480 (15,480 FP) Last of the high peaks of the Jemez Mountains that have not been logged.

Peralta Canyon 14,000 (13,400 NW) Spectacular canyon and timbered headlands. Habitat for the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout.

Chama Canyon Wilderness Additions 4,800 (4,800 FP) Includes the northern portion of Chama Canyon.

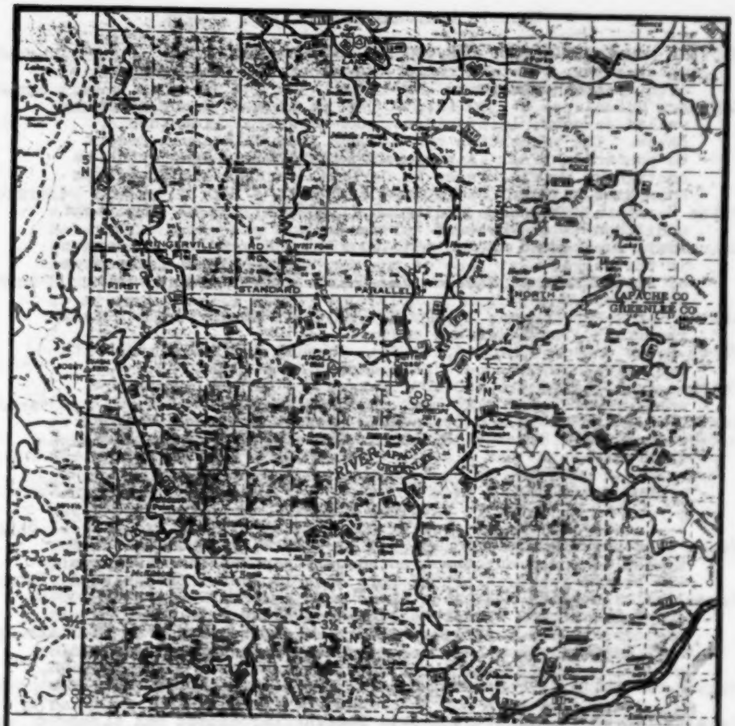
San Pedro Parks Wilderness Additions 5,670 (5,670 FP) Steep west slope additions to the wilderness.

Caballo Mountain 8,800 (8,800 FP) High mountains near Los Alamos.

Canones Pedernal 12,900 (12,900 NW) Canyons with permanent streams near Polvadera.

Corral 11,000 (11,000 NW) Remote, rugged and wooded canyons and headlands.

Virgin 6,250 (6,250 NW) Deep, multi-colored canyon near Jemez Springs.


T 5 N
SPRINGERVILLE
FIRST
STANDARD
PARALLEL
NORTH
APACHE CO
GREENLEE CO
4 N
RIVER
4½ N
3 N

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

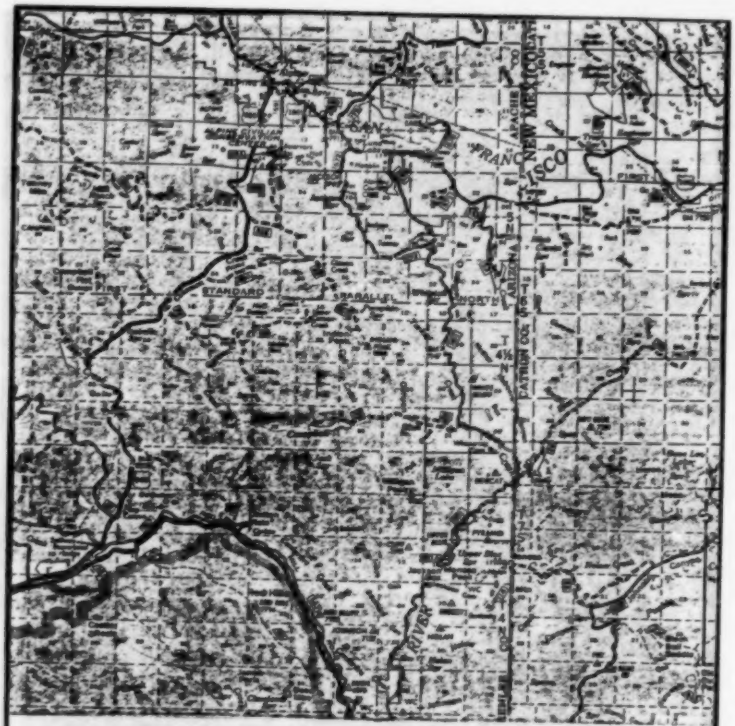
PROPOSED
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER -BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Map 1 of 8

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

December 28, 1979


SAN
FRANC
ISCO
STANDARD
PARALLEL
NORTH
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
APACHE CO.
CATRON CO.
GREENLEE CO.
RIVER

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

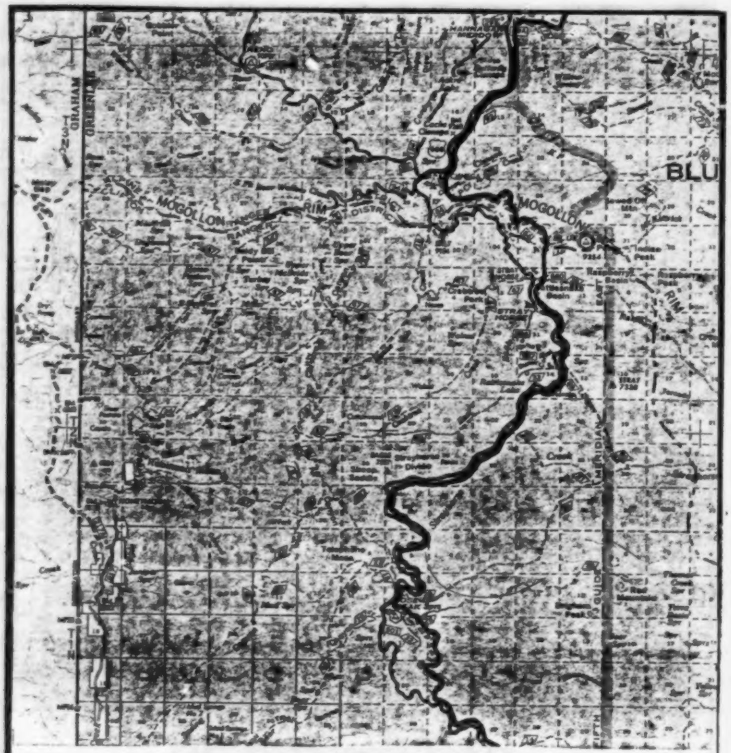
PROPOSED
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER -BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

Map 2 of 8

December 28, 1979


GRAHAM
GREENLEE
MOGOLLON
RIM
MOGOLLON
BLU
MERIDIAN
GUIDE
FIFTH

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

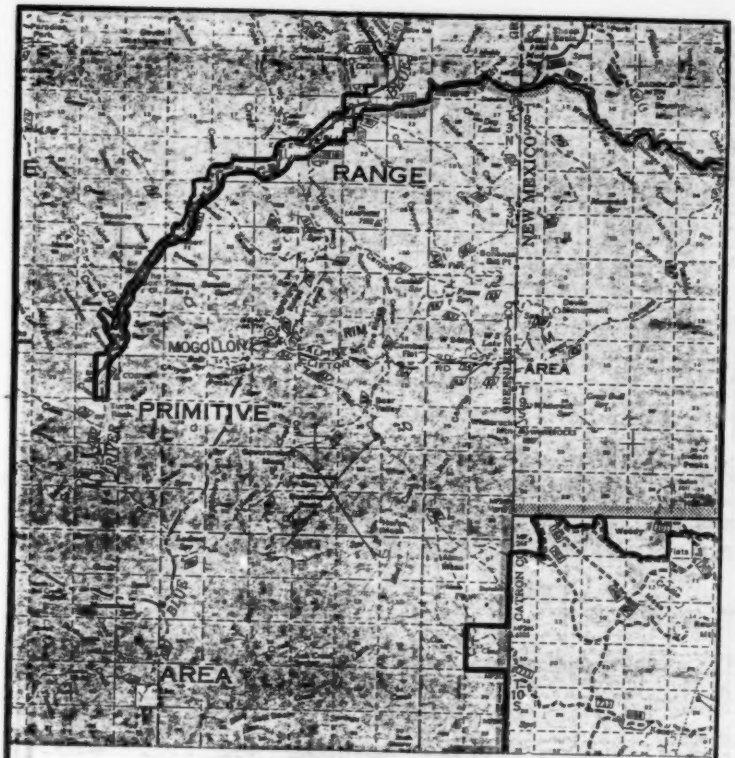
PROPOSED
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER -BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Map 3 of 8

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

December 28, 1979


RANGE
NEW MEXICO
MOGOLLON
RIM
AREA
PRIMITIVE
BLUE
AREA

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

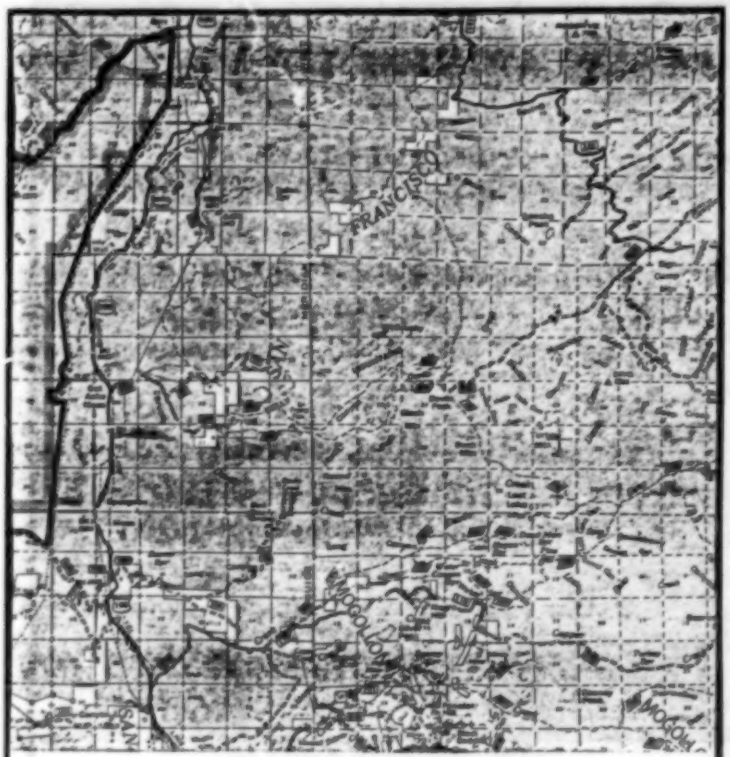
PROPOSED
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER -BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Map 4 of 8

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

December 28, 1979



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

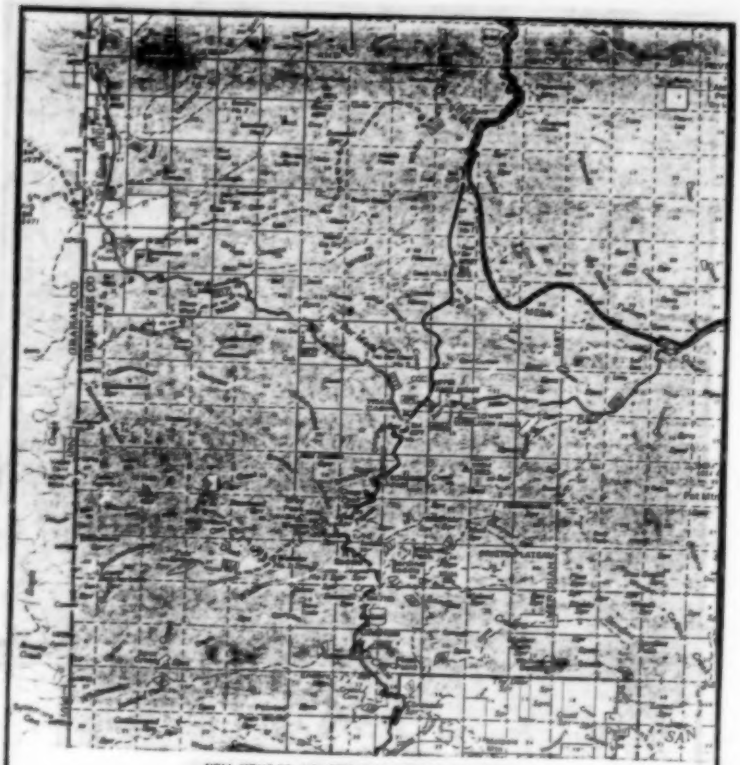
PROPOSED
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER -BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Map 5 of 8

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

December 28, 1979



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

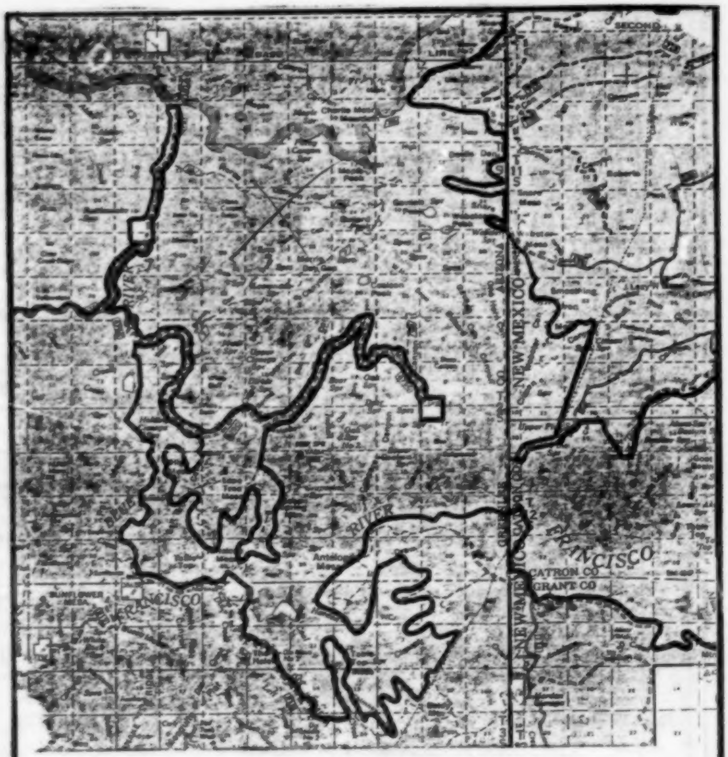
PROPOSED
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER -BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Map 6 of 8

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

December 28, 1979


NEW MEXICO
RIVER
FRANCISCO
CATRON CO
GRANT CO
FRANCISCO

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

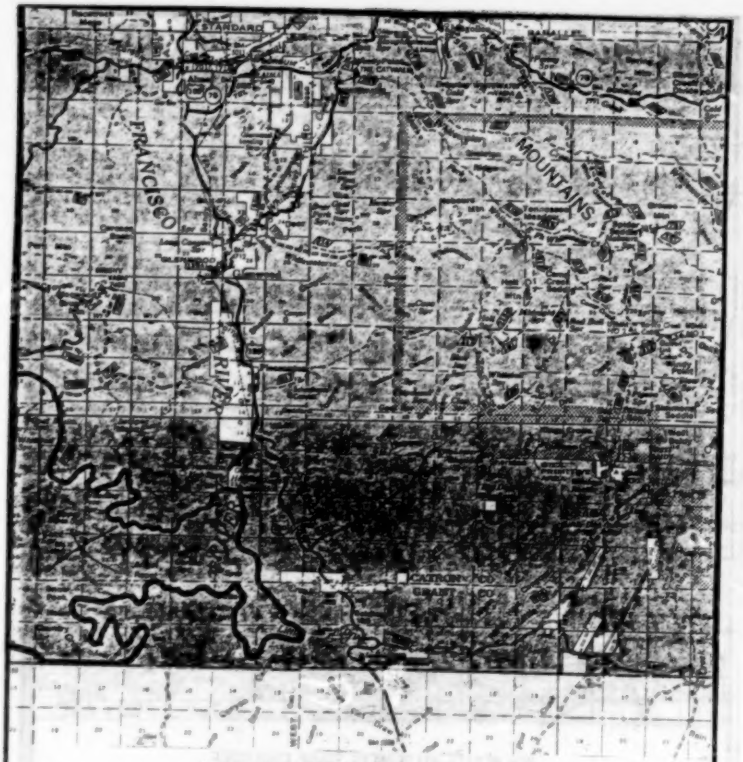
PROPOSED
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER -BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Map 7 of 8

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

December 28, 1979


STANDARD
FRANCISCO
RIVER
MOUNTAINS
CATRON CO.
GRANT CO.

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

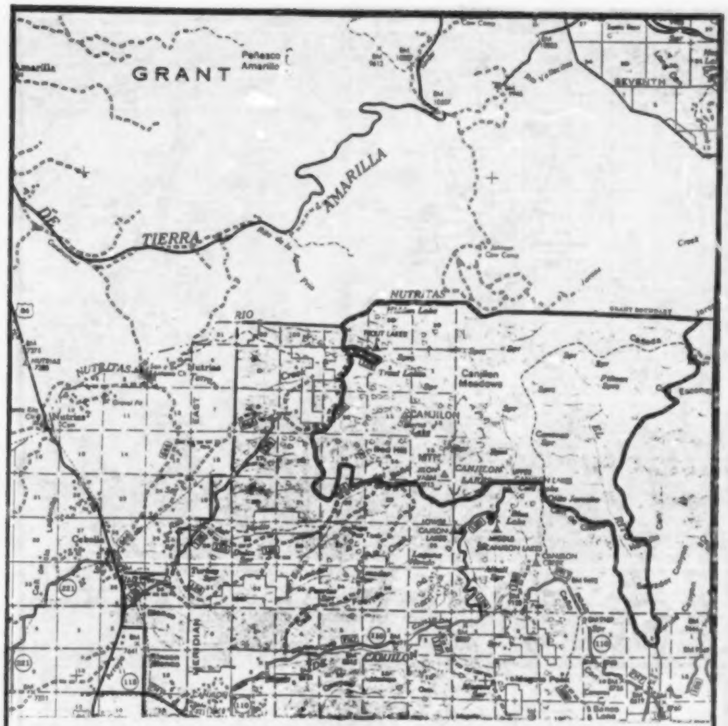
PROPOSED
LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER -BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

Map 8 of 8

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

December 28, 1979


GRANT
Amarilla
Peñasco Amarillo
AMARILLA
TIERRA
DE
NUTRITAS
RIO
EAST
MERIDIAN
Canjilon Meadows
CANJILON
MTN.
CANJILON LAKES
Trout Lakes
Canjilon
Cebolla
SEVENTH
Creek
GRANT BOUNDARY

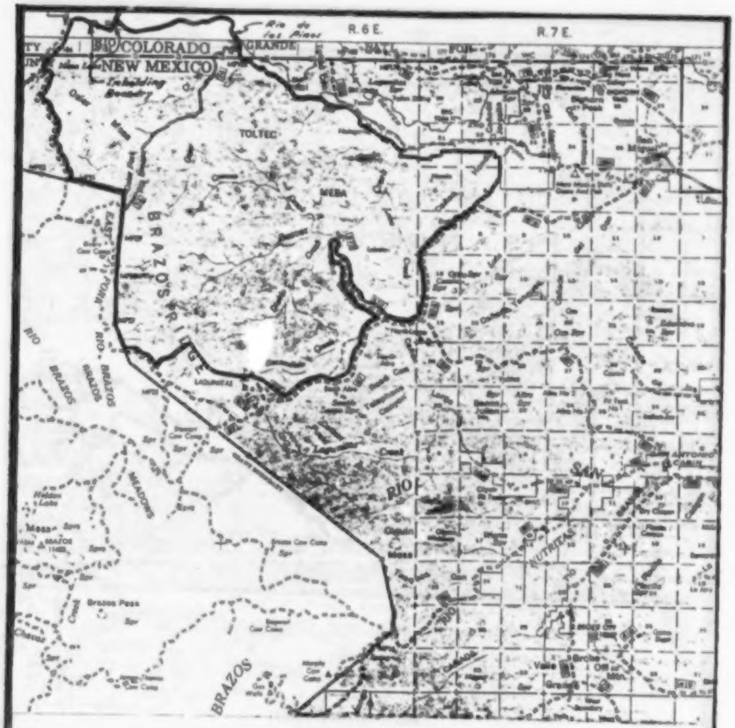
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
CANJILON MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

3 1980


R.6 E.
R.7 E.
COLORADO
NEW MEXICO
Interstate Boundary
Rio de los Pinos
RIO GRANDE
TOLTEC
MESA
BRAZOS RIDGE
RIO BRAZOS
LAGUNITAS
MEADOWS
RIO SAN ANTONIO
NUTRITAS
BRAZOS

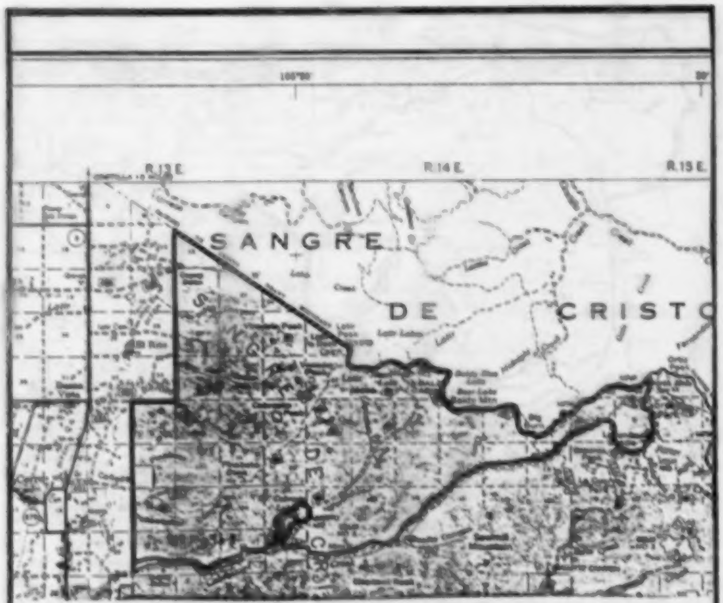
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
CRUCES BASIN WILDERNESS

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


105°30'
R.13 E.
R.14 E.
R.15 E.
SANGRE
DE
CRISTO

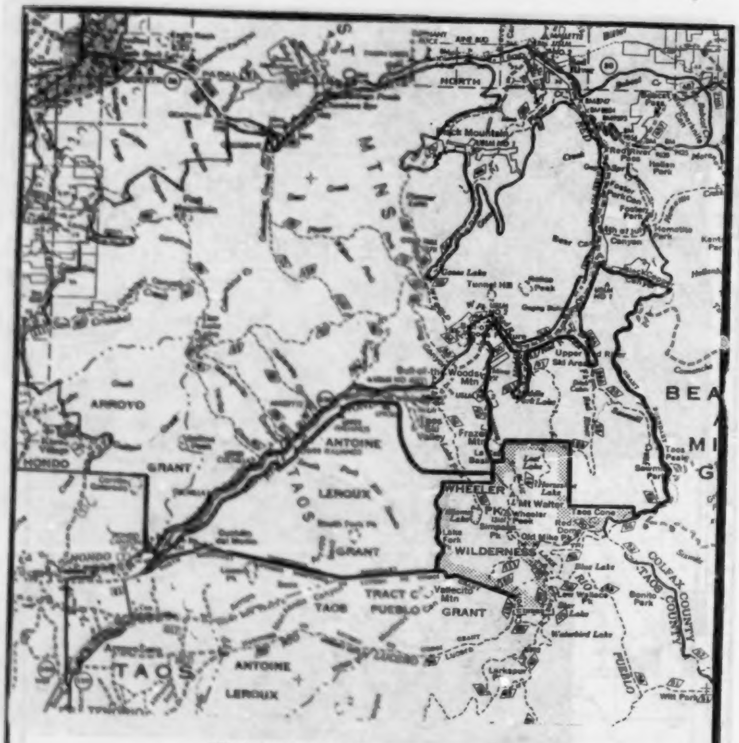
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
LATIR PEAK WILDERNESS

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980

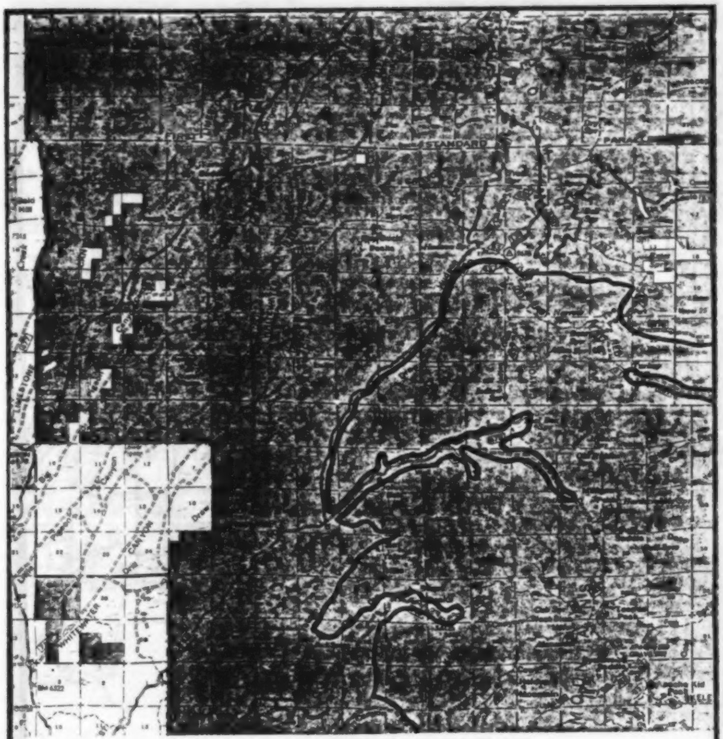

MTNS
NORTH
ARROYO
HONDO
GRANT
ANTOINE
TAOS
LEROUX
GRANT
WHEELER PK WILDERNESS
Mt Walter
Wheeler Peak
Blue Lake
Vallecito Mtn
TRACT C
PUEBLO
GRANT
TAOS
PUEBLO
ANTOINE
LEROUX
Goose Lake
Tunnel Hill
Upper Ski Area
Red River Pass
Bear Canyon
BEA
MI
G
COLFAX COUNTY
TAOS COUNTY
Bonito Park

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
WHEELER PEAK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS & COLOMBINE-HONDO
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

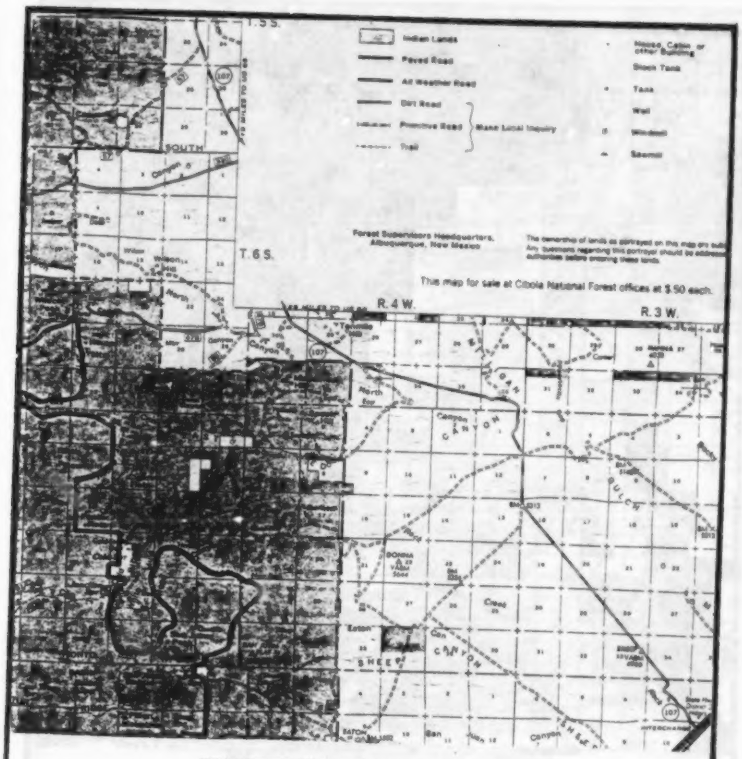
PROPOSED
APACHE KID WILDERNESS

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 1 of 4

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


T. 5 S.
Indian Lands
Paved Road
All Weather Road
Dirt Road
Primitive Road
Trail
Make Local Inquiry
House, Cabin or other Building
Stock Tank
Tank
Well
Windmill
Sawmill
Forest Supervisors Headquarters, Albuquerque, New Mexico
This map for sale at Cibola National Forest offices at $.50 each.
T. 6 S.
R. 4 W.
R. 3 W.
SOUTH
CANYON
GULCH
SHEEP
BONITA
Eaton
107
INTERCHANGE

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

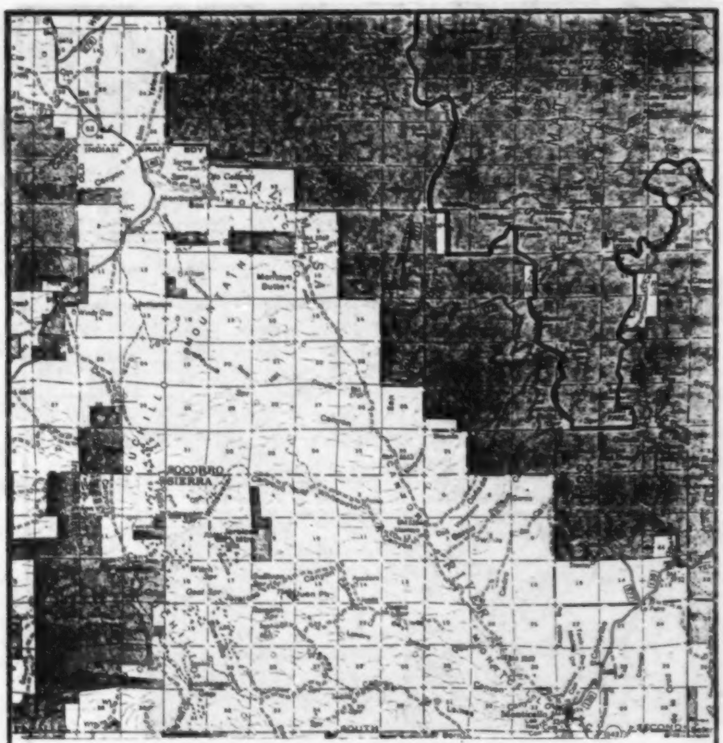
PROPOSED
APACHE KID WILDERNESS

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 2 of 4

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

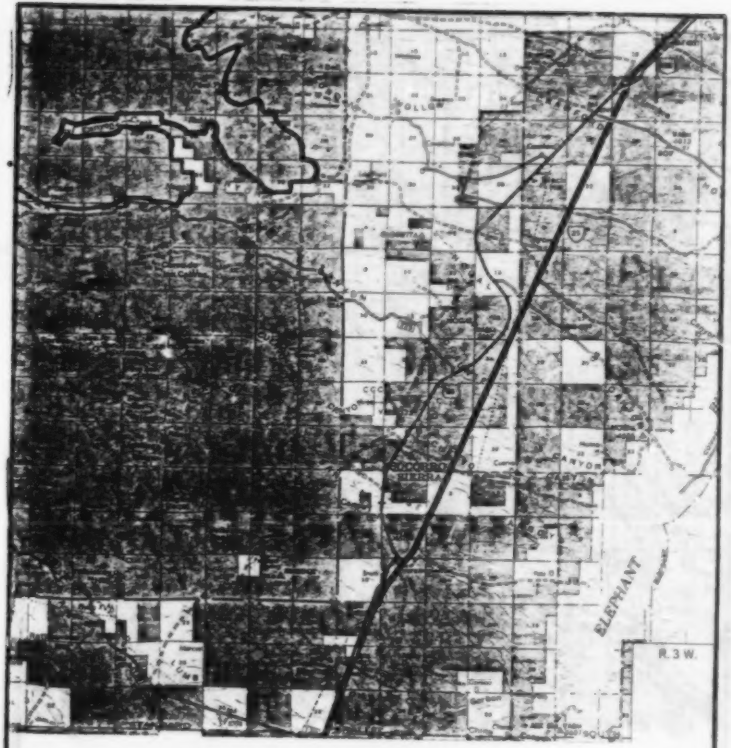
PROPOSED
APACHE KID WILDERNESS

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 3 of 4

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


ELEPHANT
R. 3 W.
CANYON

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

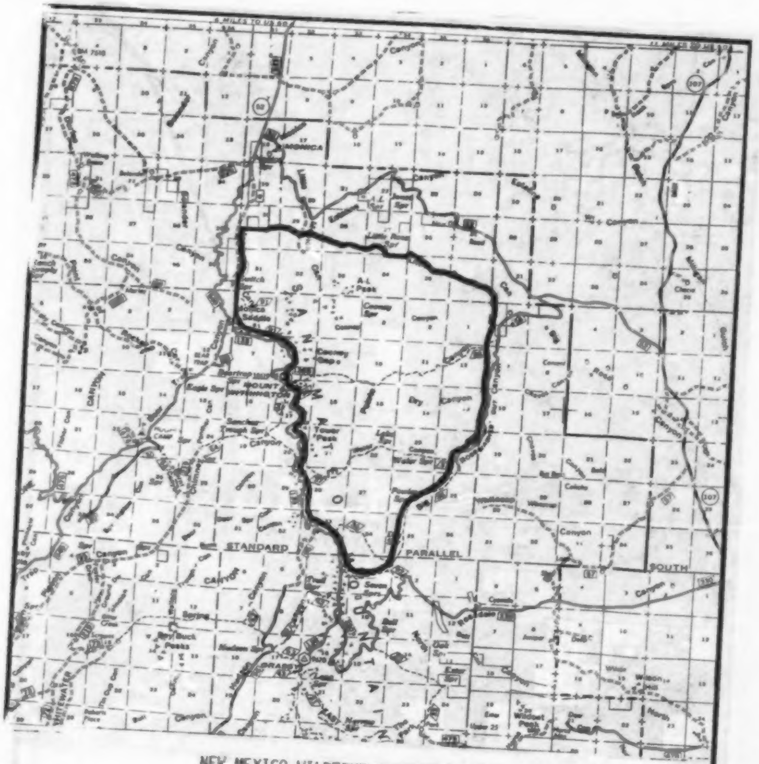
PROPOSED
APACHE KID WILDERNESS

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 4 of 4

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


STANDARD
PARALLEL
SOUTH
MOUNT WITHINGTON
Tower Peak
Canyon

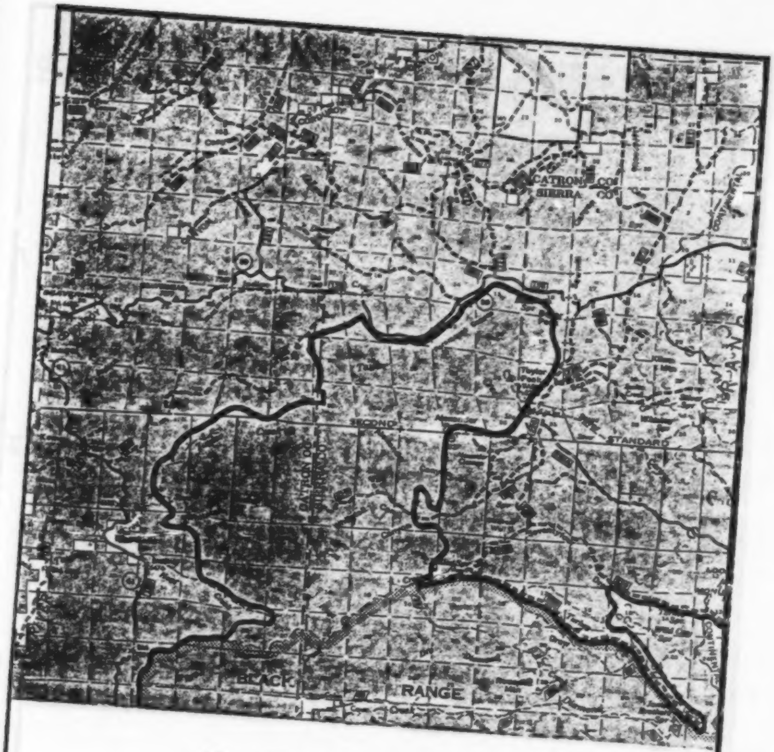
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
WITHINGTON WILDERNESS

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


CATRON CO.
SIERRA CO.
STANDARD
BLACK
RANGE

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

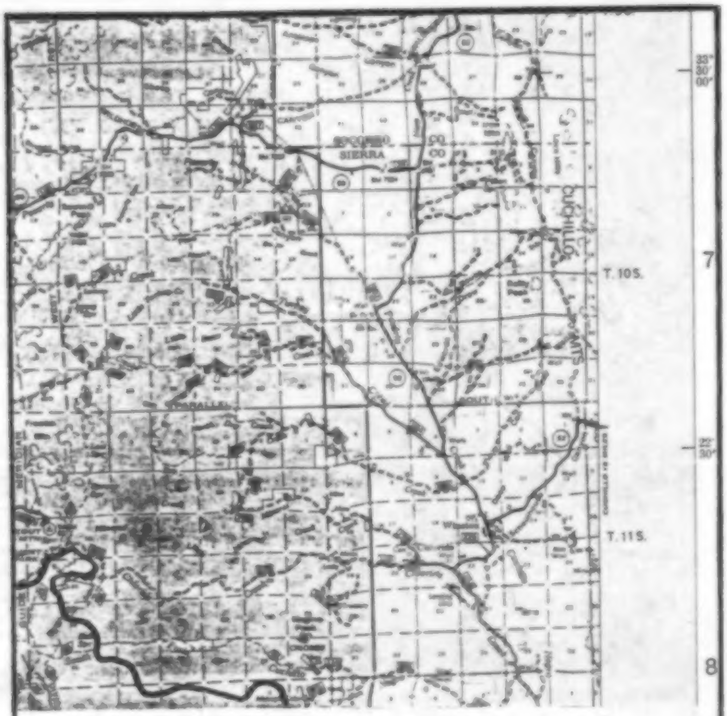
PROPOSED
ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

Map 1 of 6

January 8, 1980


SOCORRO
SIERRA
CO
CO
CUCHILLO
T.10S.
T.11S.
7
8

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

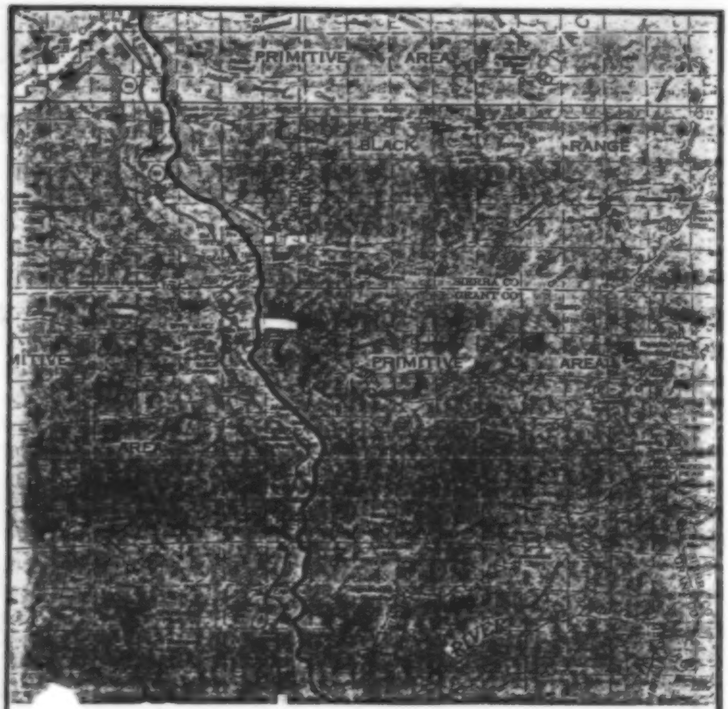
PROPOSED
ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 2 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


PRIMITIVE AREA
BLACK RANGE
SIERRA CO
GRANT CO
PRIMITIVE AREA
MITIVE
RIVER

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

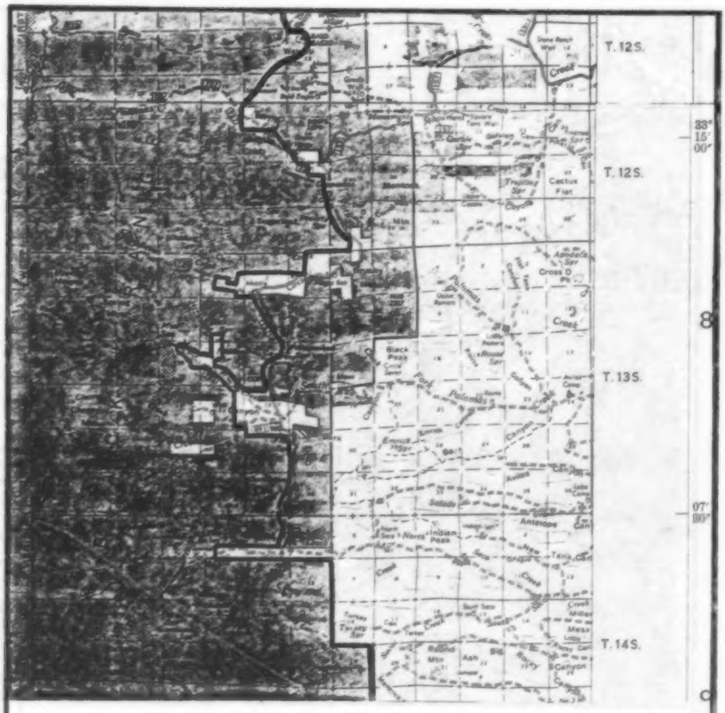
PROPOSED
ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 3 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


T. 12S.
T. 12S.
T. 13S.
T. 14S.
33° 15' 00"
07' 30"
Cactus Flat
Black Peak
Indian Peak
Antelope

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

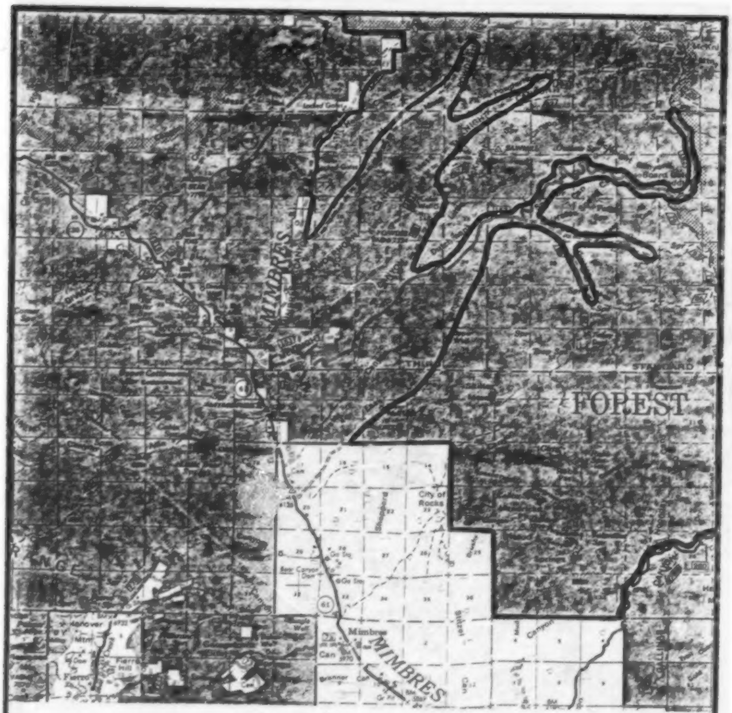
PROPOSED
ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 4 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


MIMBRES
FOREST
City of Rocks
Mimbres
MIMBRES
Hanover

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

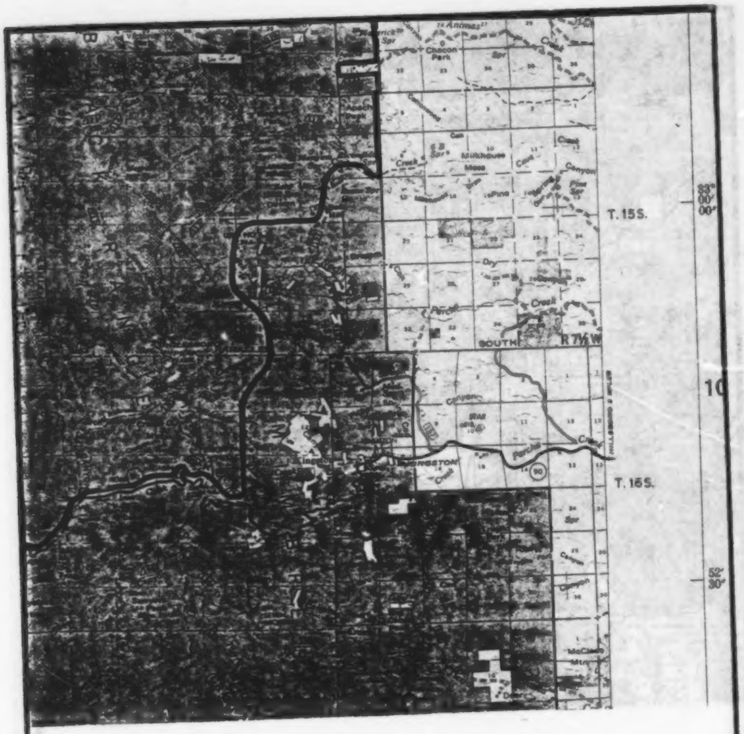
PROPOSED
ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 5 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


T. 15 S.
T. 16 S.
R 7½ W
Kingston
Percha
Creek
Canyon
Dry
Milkhouse
Mesa
McClede Mtn
33° 00' 00"
52' 30"
10

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS

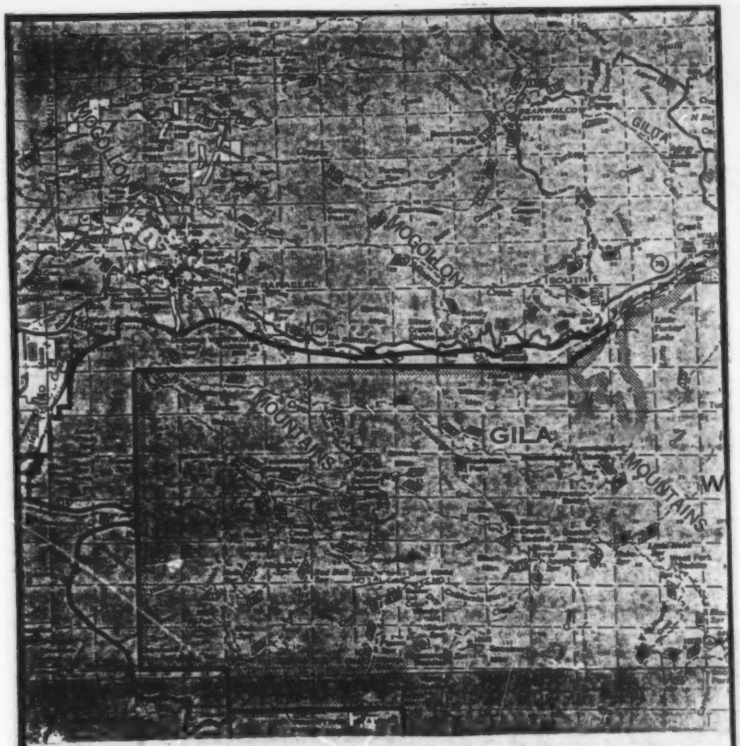
GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 6 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980

best copy available


MOGOLLON
MOGOLLON
BEARWALLOW
GILITA
SOUTH
MOUNTAINS
GILA
MOUNTAINS
W

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

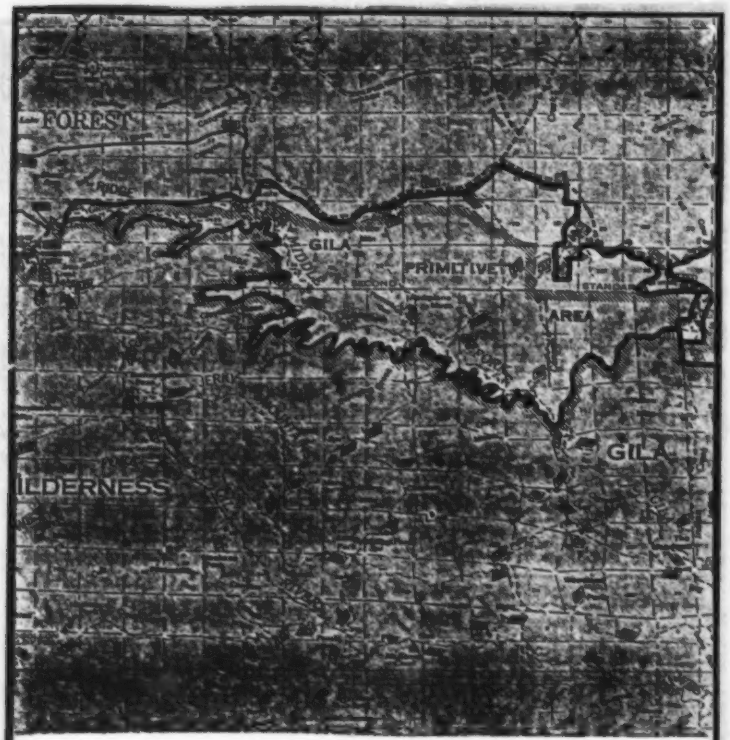
PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 1 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


FOREST
RIDGE
GILA
PRIMITIVE
SECOND
STANDARD
AREA
GILA
ILDERNESS

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

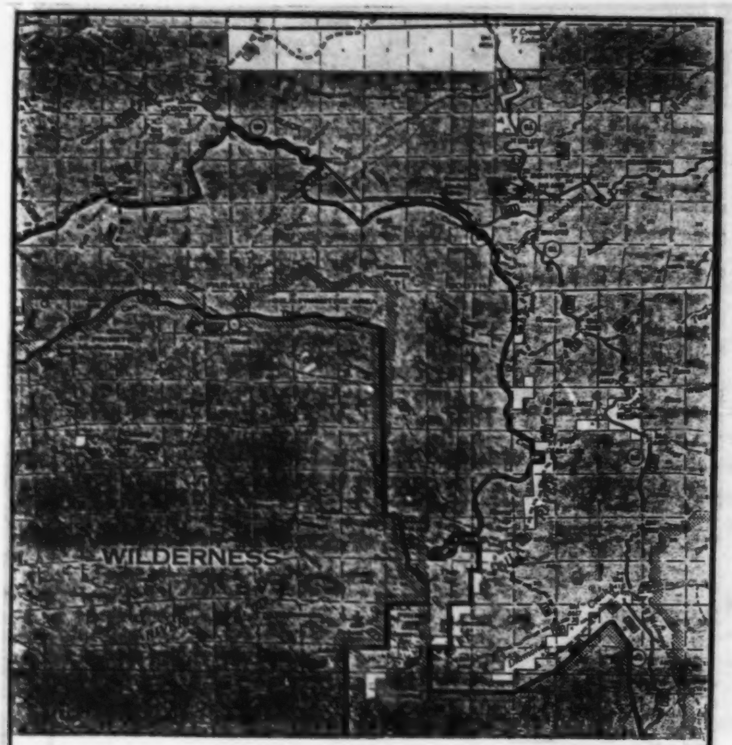
PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 2 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

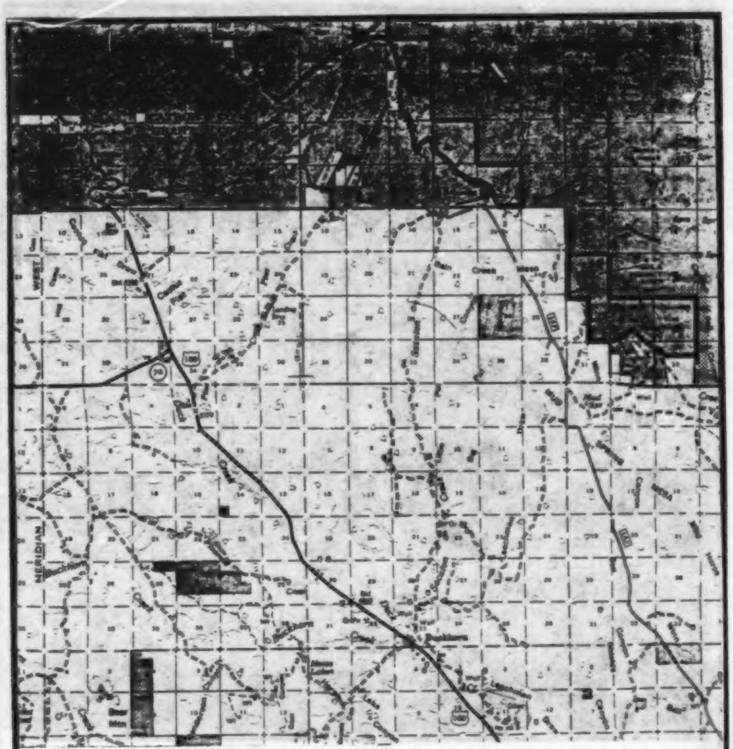
PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 3 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

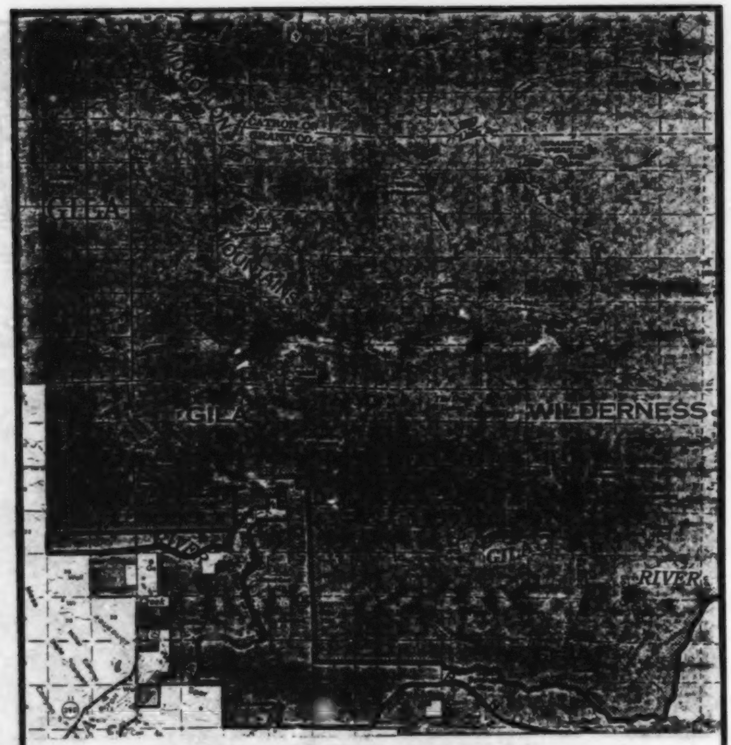
PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 4 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


GILA
MOUNTAINS
GILA
WILDERNESS
GILA
RIVER

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 5 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980

GILA
PRIMITIVE
AREA
NATIONAL

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

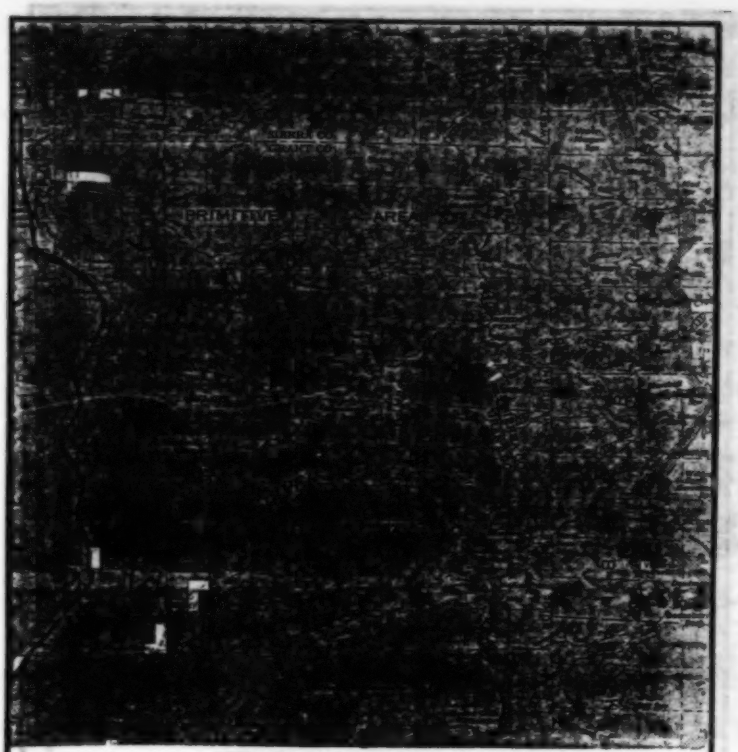
PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 6 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

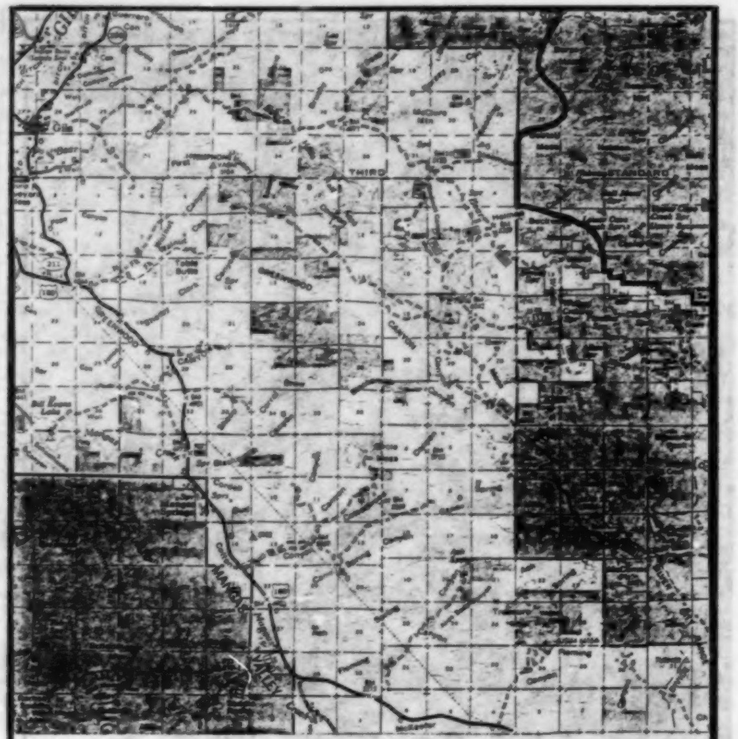
PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 7 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


THIRD
STANDARD
VALLEY

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

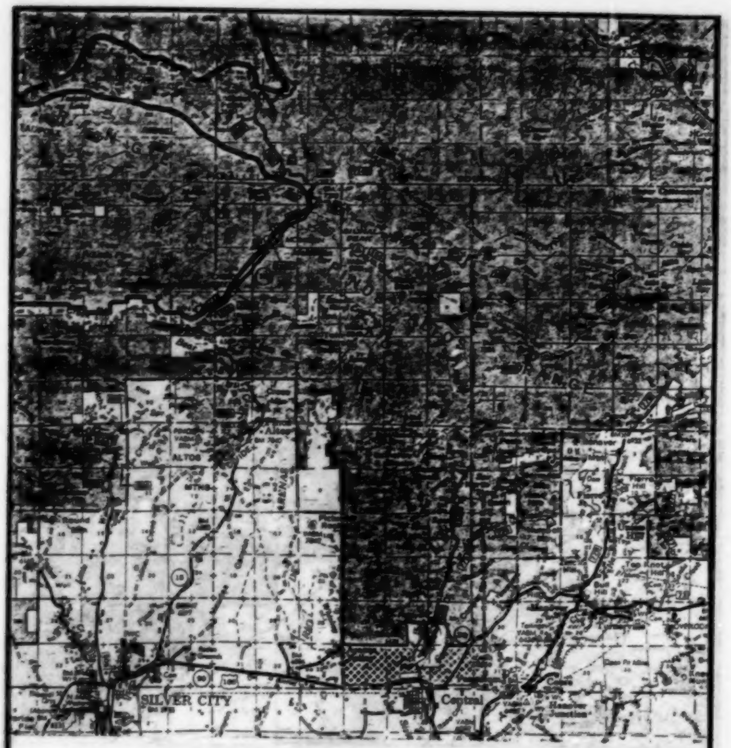
PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 8 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


SILVER CITY
Central

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

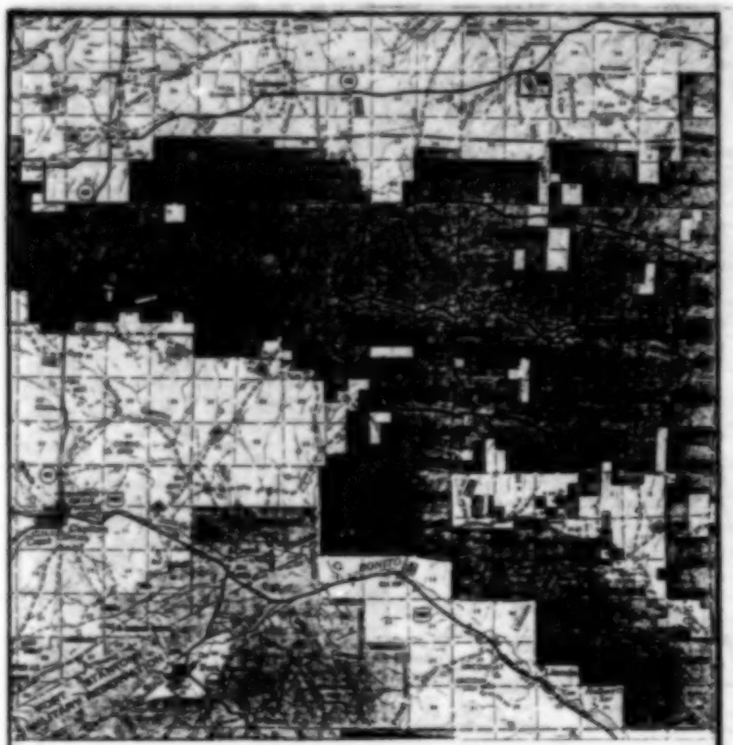
PROPOSED
GILA WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 9 of 9

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

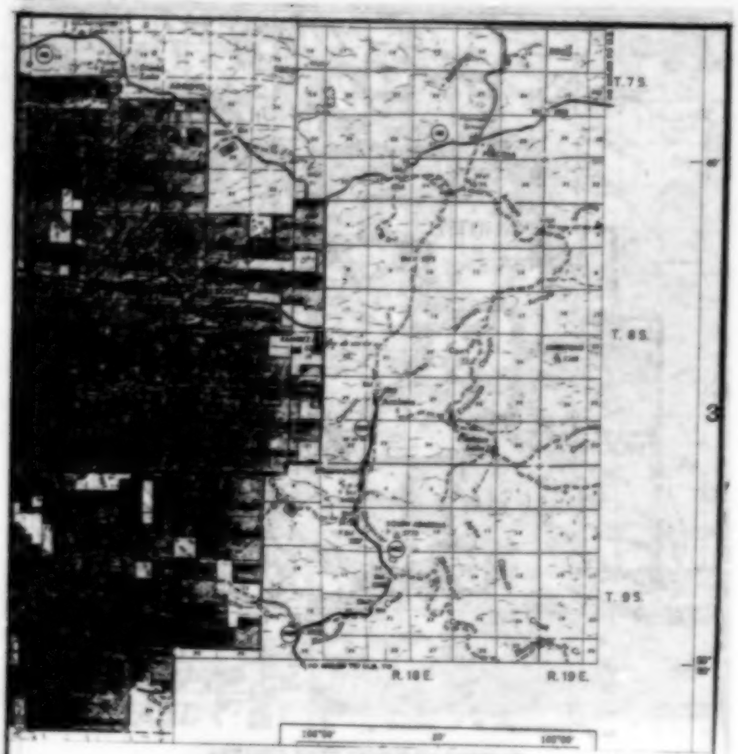
PROPOSED
EL CAPITAN MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 1 of 2

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

September 1, 1979


T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
R. 18 E.
R. 19 E.

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

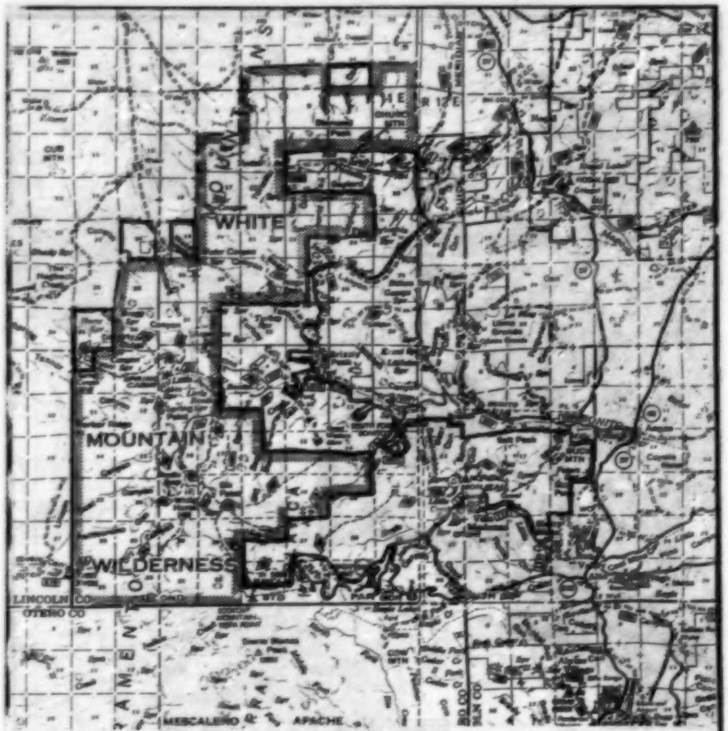
PROPOSED
EL CAPITAN MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Map 2 of 2

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

September 1, 1979

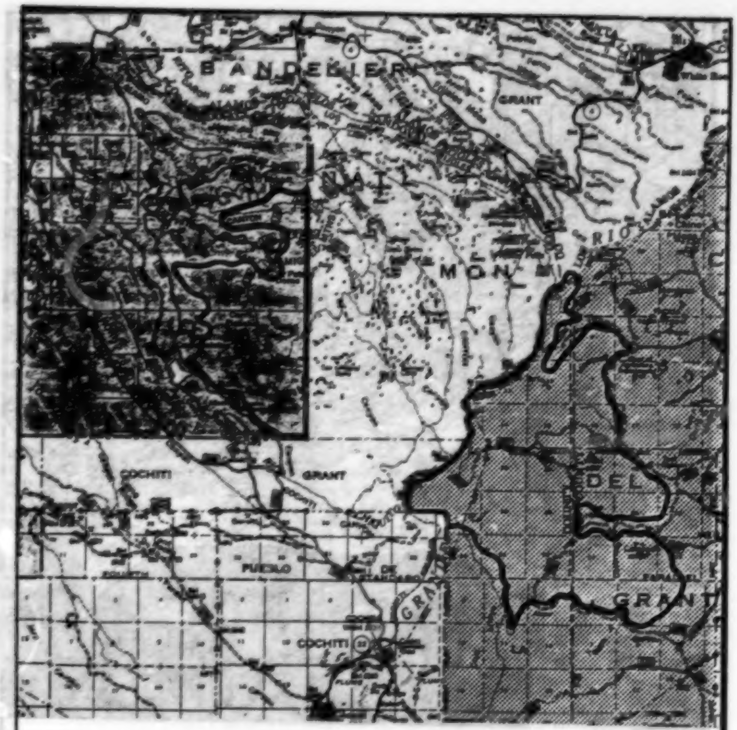

WHITE
MOUNTAIN
WILDERNESS
LINCOLN CO
OTERO CO
MESCALERO
APACHE

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
WHITE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile September 1, 1979


BANDELIER
GRANT
NAT'L
MON
RIO GRANDE
COCHITI
GRANT
PUEBLO
DEL
GRANT
COCHITI
White Rock

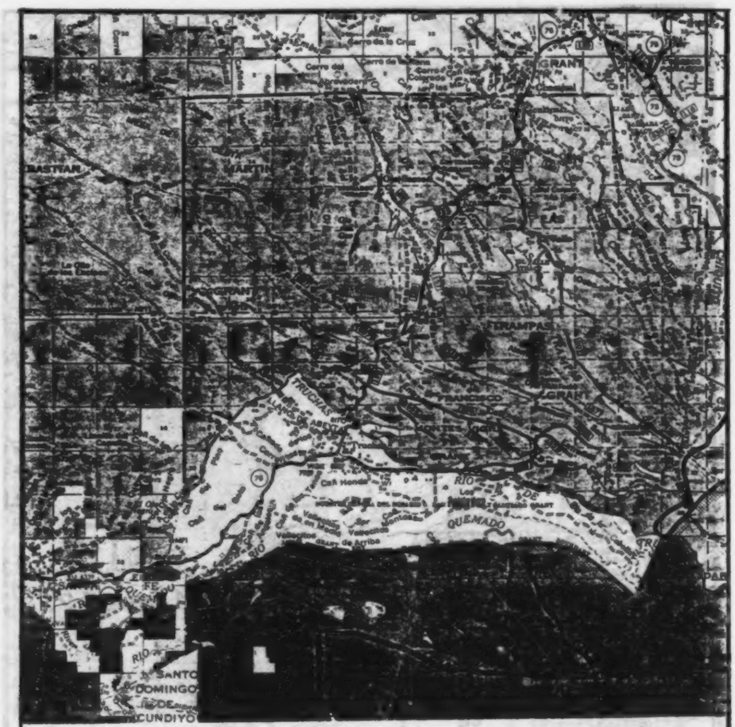
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
BANDELIER WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

December 28, 1979


Cerro de la Cruz
GRANT
MARTIN
TRAMPAS
TRUCHAS
FRANCISCO
QUEMADO
Vallecitos
RIO
SANTO
DOMINGO
DE
CUNDIYO

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED

PECOS WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

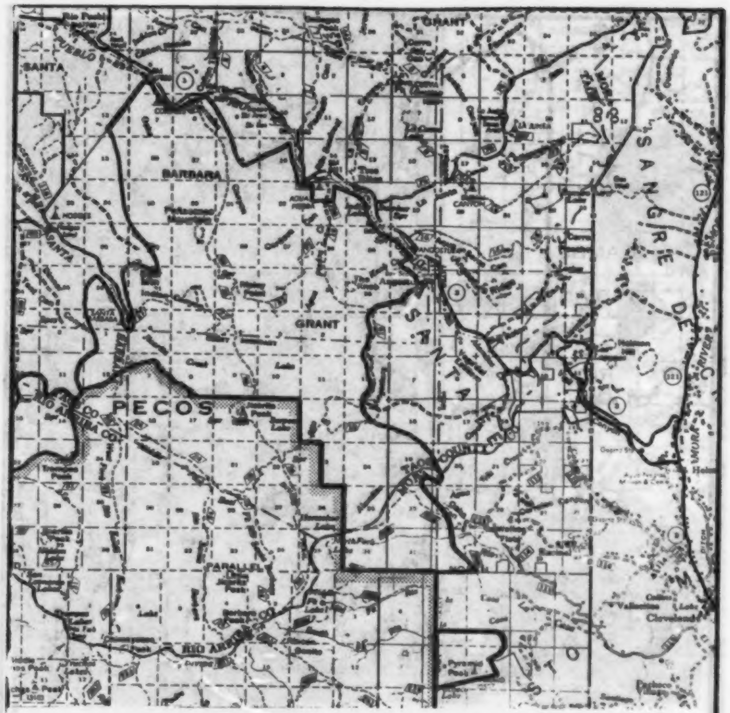
CARSON & SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS

NEW MEXICO

Map 1 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


GRANT
SANTA
PUEBLO
BARBARA
GRANT
PECOS
SANTA
SANGRE DE C
TAOS COUNTY
PARALLEL
RIO ARRIBA CO
Lake
Valle
Cleveland

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

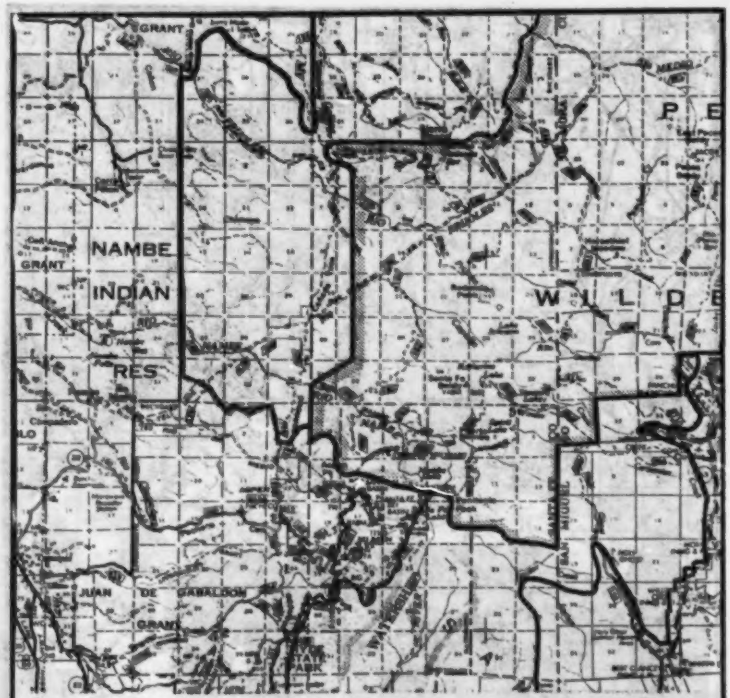
PROPOSED
PECOS WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

CARSON & SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO

Map 2 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


GRANT
NAMBE
INDIAN
RES
GRANT
P E
W I L D E
JUAN DE GABALDON
GRANT

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

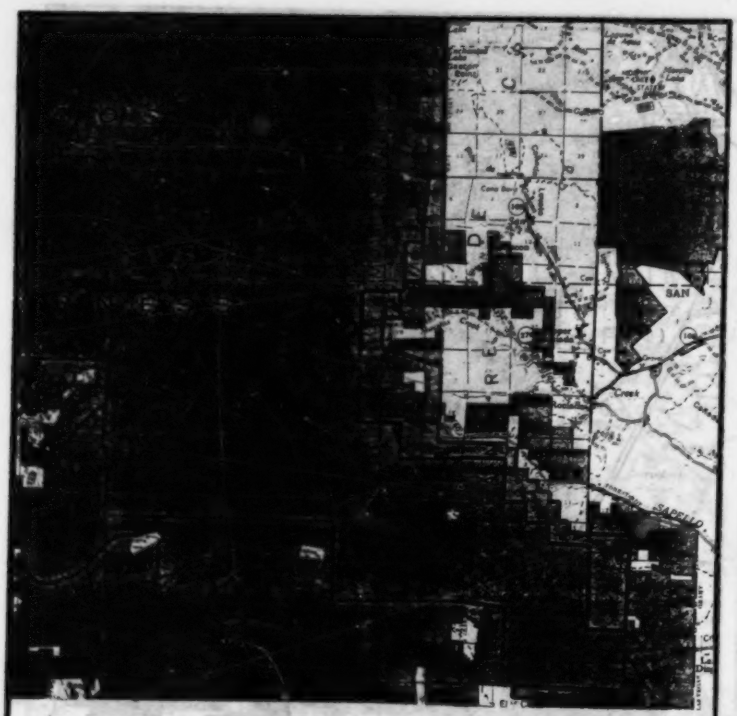
PROPOSED
PECOS WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

CARSON & SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO

Map 3 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


C
D
R
SAN
Creek
SAPELLO

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

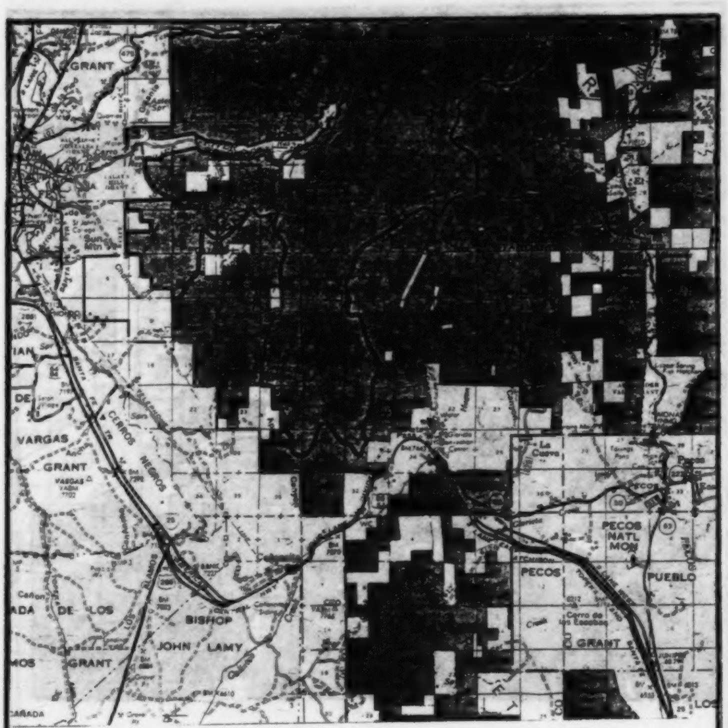
PROPOSED
PECOS WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

CARSON & SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO

Map 4 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


GRANT
VARGAS
GRANT
CERROS
NEGROS
DE
ADA
DE LOS
BISHOP
JOHN LAMY
MOS
GRANT
CAÑADA
PECOS
NATL
MON
PECOS
PUEBLO
GRANT
LOS

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

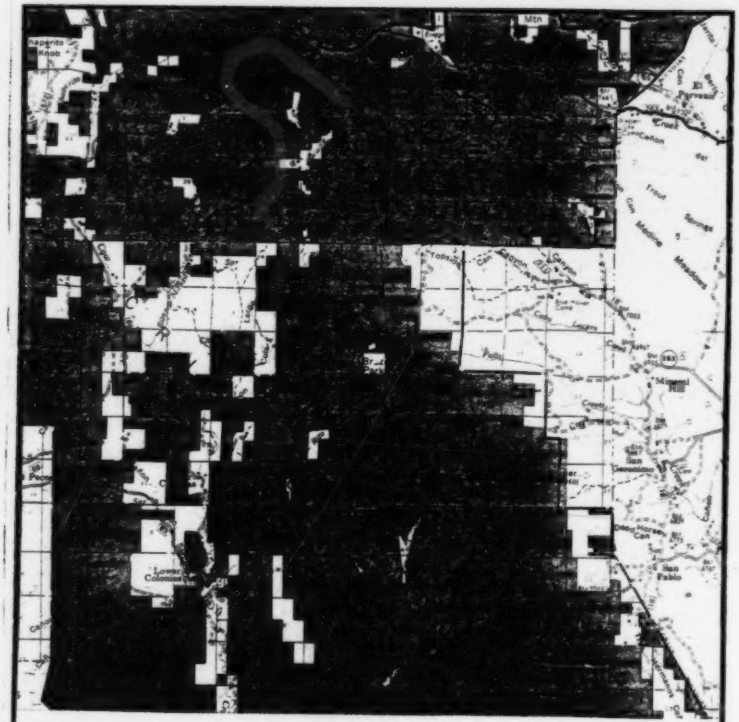
PROPOSED
PECOS WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

CARSON & SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO

Map 5 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980


Mtn
Knob
Topside
Can
Canyon
Trout
Springs
Meadows
Miguel
San Geronimo
Horsey
Can
San Pablo
Lower Colonias
Pecos
Cañon
Creek

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED
PECOS WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

CARSON & SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS
NEW MEXICO

Map 6 of 6

Scale ½ inch = 1 mile

January 8, 1980

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